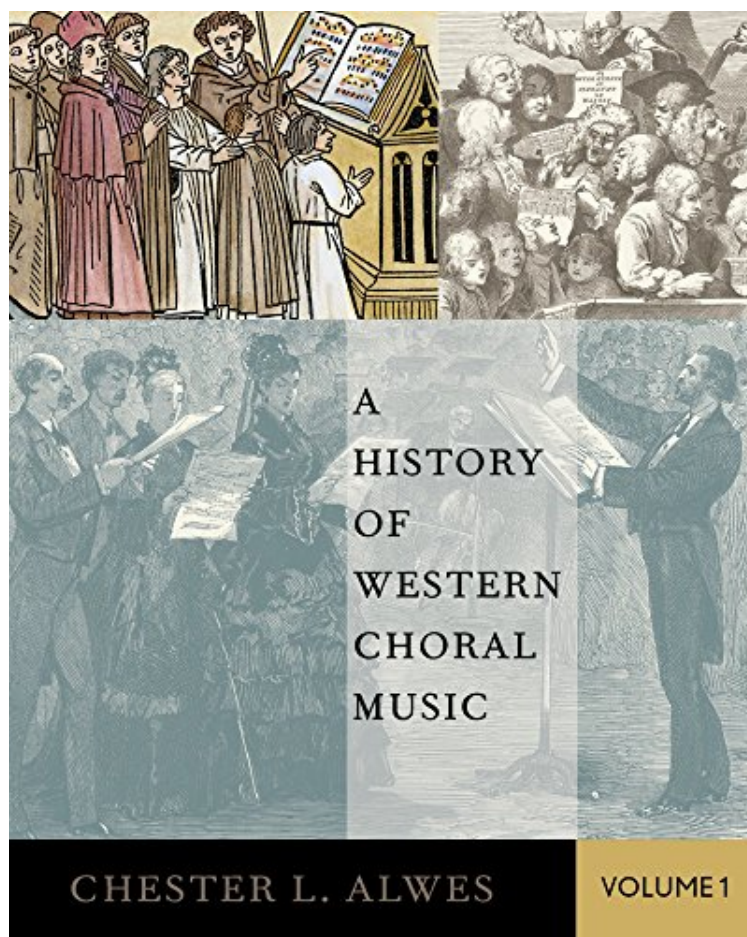


A History of Western Choral Music, Volume 1

Chester L. Alwes

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Chester L. Alwes : A History of Western Choral Music, Volume 1 before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised A History of Western Choral Music, Volume 1:

A History of Western Choral Music explores the various genres, key composers, and influential works essential to the development of the western choral tradition. Author Chester L. Alwes divides this exploration into two volumes which move from Medieval music and the Renaissance era up to the 21st century. Volume I surveys the choral music of composers including Josquin, Palestrina, Purcell, Handel, and J.S. Bach while detailing the stylistic, textual, and extramusical considerations unique to the topics covered. Consideration of Renaissance music includes both sacred and secular works, specifically addressing the growth of sacred music, the rise of secular music, and the proliferation of sacred polyphony from Josquin to Palestrina. Discussion of the Baroque era is organized by geographic location, exploring the spread of Baroque style from Italy to German, France, and England. Volume I concludes by examining the aesthetic underpinnings of the early Classical and Romantic eras. Framing discussion within the political, religious,

cultural, philosophical, aesthetic, and technological contexts of each era, *A History of Western Choral Music* offers readers specialized insight into major composers and works while providing a cohesive understanding of choral music's place in Western history.

"*A History of Western Choral Music, Volume 1* by Chester L. Alwes is a welcome addition to the literature on choral music. Choral directors of all levels will appreciate this book for its clear narrative and methods of analysis whether they use it as a textbook, a reference work, or a guide to programming." -- *The Choral Scholar* "Alwes (emer., Univ. of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign) is a respected teacher whose students lead choral programs worldwide. His personal, practical experience enriches his discussion... Highly recommended. Upper-division undergraduates through faculty and professionals." -- *Source* About the Author A native of Louisville, KY, Chester Alwes has served the music faculties of the College of Wooster, the University of Rochester/Eastman School of Music and, from 1982-2011, the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. At Illinois, Alwes developed a national reputation as a specialist in the history and performance practice of choral literature. Alwes has authored numerous articles in a variety of journals and is a composer, editor, and arranger with works published by Oxford University Press, Roger Dean Music, Mark Foster Music, et al. At Illinois, Alwes has overseen the successful completion of over thirty dissertations on the choral music of various periods and styles.