By Flowing Waters - English Chants for the Liturgy

**Artist:** The Schola Cantorum of St. Peter the Apostle  
**Language:** English  
**Label:** Liturgical Press  
**Period:** Contemporary  
**Length:** 56'55  
**Release date:** 1999  
**Price:** $16.95 USD

1. Glory and Honor and Praise  
2. Alleluia, This Is the Day  
3. By Flowing Waters  
4. Springs of Water  
5. You Were Sent to Heal the Contrite  
6. Glory to God  
7. Because I Have Sinned Against You  
8. Come, My Beloved  
9. Alleluia Psalm (Psalm 9)  
10. Easter Vigil  
11. Ascension Alleluia Psalm (Psalm 47)  
12. Apostles' Creed in Question Form  
13. My Redeemer Lives  
14. In the Presence of the Angels  
15. Holy, Holy, Holy  
16. Memorial Acclamation A  
17. Doxology Ending and Threefold Amen  
18. Lamb of God  
19. In Galilee You Will See Jesus  
20. Ask and You Will Receive  
21. Psalm 34 with Alleluias  
22. We Give You Praise  
23. You Knew Me, Lord  
24. May Flights of Angels  
25. May Choirs of Angels

If you enjoy listening to Gregorian chant but have always wondered how these beautiful melodies would sound in the English Language, this recording may become a favorite. With the popularity of chant recordings among English-speaking audiences, it may be surprising that such recordings are so rare. However, because the Gregorian melodies are so closely married to the rhythm and character of their Latin texts, replacing the original Latin with an English translation almost always leads to a very stilted, awkward sounding result. Another approach is to start with the English translations and find simpler Gregorian melodies -- perhaps with totally
different liturgical functions and unrelated texts -- and adapt them so they fit the meaning and
rhythmic structure of the new vernacular text, while preserving the flow and feeling of the
original melody. This is what Paul F. Ford has done in his English language adaptation of
“Graduale Simplex, which itself is a compilation of simpler plain chants for use in smaller
churches (that don't have the skilled choirs necessary to render the more elaborate chants of the
Roman Gradual). Combining the principles of “Graduale Simplex” with the modern English
translation of the New Revised Standard Version of the Bible resulted in the publication of 679
chants for liturgical use, entitled “By Flowing Waters. This recording with the same name
presents a selection of 25 them. The sources of these melodies are mainly from the Gregorian
chant repertoire, although examples from the Mozarabic and Ambrosian tradition are also
represented.

By: Joe Metzinger

The Schola Cantorum of St. Peter the Apostle is the perfect ensemble for interpreting these
chants because if its extensive pastoral experience. These interpretations sound effortless and
prayerful, particularly in the rhythmic projection of both the texts and melodies. There is great
variety of tone color with the constant alternation between cantors and full choir, men’s and
women’s voices, and the use of hand bells, discreet percussion such as hand drums and finger
symbols, and occasional organ accompaniment. Organal harmony and an occasional ison
elaborate chants for festive occasions. In the communion chant “Ask and You Will Receive,,” a
skillful antiphon with simple organ accompaniment is paired with a simple unaccompanied
Psalm tone to create a particularly effective artistic whole. Another noteworthy selection is the
unusual setting of the Apostle’s Creed in its Ambrosian question-and-answer form. The
exquisite texts and melodies of three chants for the funeral liturgy form a wonderful conclusion to
this collection. In all, this recording is a valuable contribution for those who wish to experience
the prayerful nature of western plain chant in the English language. It will be very useful as a
reference tool for choirs of churches who use “By Flowing Waters” as a resource for their
celebration of liturgy. The notes in the accompanying booklet give the sources of the melodies
and often include performance details and interesting commentary on the Biblical texts.

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