

# MorningStar e newsletter

December 2009



Mark W. Lawson,  
President

There are certain people who providentially appear in your lifetime and help shape or influence your character in a remarkable way. For me, Paul Manz was one of those people.

I grew up in a non-liturgical tradition, and it was not until my Seminary studies that I became aware of liturgy and the impact it can have on your life. In college I had sung "E'en So, Lord Jesus, Quickly Come" but had no knowledge of the composer or the story behind it. It was not until I was into my first years as a full-time church musician that this composition became so important to me that I wanted to find out more about the composer. It was then that I began to learn about Manz's extraordinary life and career.

I first met Paul Manz at a hymn festival shortly after joining the staff at MorningStar. By that time, I knew of his legacy and of his many publications. I had no idea that I was about to become friends with one of the most gracious and caring people whom I had ever known.

Shortly after becoming President of MorningStar in 1997, Paul took me aside and told me that he had confidence in me, and that I should not be afraid to follow my own instincts and intuitions. He realized that the pressure to continue to develop a young company could be intense at times, and his words had a calming effect on me. Paul and Ruth Manz both had the gift of encouragement. Personal notes to me and the staff at MorningStar often found their way into our mail. I still have a very encouraging note from Paul posted on my door just to remind me of his support.

I suppose, in looking back, the most important thing Paul did for me was to set an example. Paul lived his life as a consummate musician, a loving husband and father, and a great source of encouragement and Christian love. His journey through this world was not without troubles, sadness, and loss, but he never lost that wonderful sense of hopefulness and encouragement. I never heard Paul speak badly of someone or make disparaging comments about the work others had done. He always had something positive to say.

Thank you Paul for all you did, and most of all for being an example of how Christ wants us to live. We will miss you.

## Christmas Music for your church

### Brass and Organ

[Hymn Introductions and Descants for Trumpet and Organ, Set 3 - Dallas Blair](#)

[Five Christmas Carols for Brass and Organ - Robert Powell](#)

[On This Day Earth Shall Ring - Raymond H. Haan](#)

[March of the Three Kings – Robert MacDonald](#)

[Joy to the World – Susan Borwick \(brass quintet only\)](#)

### Brass and Congregation

[Joy to the World \(Festive Hymn Setting\) – Robert A. Hobby](#)

[Festive Hymn Settings for Congregation Singing, Set 3 \(Adv and Christmas\) – James Biery](#)

[Five Carol Accompaniments for Brass Quartet and Organ – Michael Burkhardt](#)

### Woodwinds and Organ

[Three Carols for Flute and Organ – Michael Barker](#)

[A Carol Suite for Flute, Clarinet or Oboe, Organ or Piano with opt. Percussion – Michael Burkhardt](#)

### Strings and Organ

[O Come Emmanuel: Six Advent and Christmas Hymns for Cello or Viola and Organ - Raymond H. Haan](#)

### Festive Accompaniments for Organ

[Three Festive Christmas Hymn Introductions and Accompaniments - Robert A. Hobby](#)

## Recordings

### Choral Music

*St. Olaf:* [My Spirit Sings of Wondrous Things](#)

*St. Olaf:* [Repertoire for Mixed Voices, Volume 1](#)

*National Lutheran Choir:* [From Light to Light](#)

*National Lutheran Choir:* [Love Looked Down](#)

*Luther College:* [Christmas at Luther 2008: Night of Glory, Dawn of Peace](#)

### Organ Music

[A Hymn Festival Celebrating the Lutheran Chorale](#)

[Espressivo: Music for Violin and Organ](#)

[Dieterich Buxtehude: A 300th Anniversary Celebration](#)

[Paul Manz Hymn Improvisations, Set 1](#)

[Paul Manz Hymn Improvisations, Set 2](#)

[Paul Manz Hymn Improvisations, Set 3](#)

[Paul Manz at Mount Olive](#)

