

MorningStar e newsletter

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Mark W. Lawson,
President

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Happy New Year from all of us at MorningStar!

We are excited about the [new publications](#) we have to offer this year, and we sincerely hope you will find them useful. Many of us are facing strenuous economic times, but we believe our publications represent a long-term investment and that you will find them to be the kinds of publications that you return to again and again. We have several publications that are focused on helping us deal with difficult times. Four of them are discussed at length in a newly available podcast. We hope these texts will be helpful to you as you work with your choir and congregation.

New podcast available

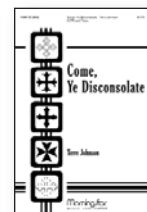
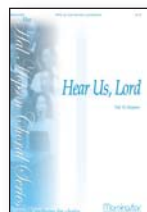
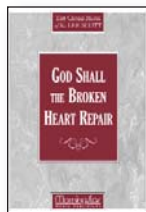
The MorningStar website is currently offering a free podcast featuring interviews with four composers and writers who all have new anthems appropriate for the Lenten season. The podcast can either be [downloaded](#) into an mp3 player or [streamed directly](#) from the website. This issue features a short interview with K. Lee Scott, Hal Hopson, Terre Johnson, and Susan Cherwien. Each interview is also offered separately on the product page of each anthem.

[God Shall the Broken Heart Repair](#)

[Hear Us, Lord](#)

[Come, Ye Disconsolate](#)

[O Blessed Spring](#)



Rehearsal tip

Utilize our website to assist with your rehearsals. Prior to the first rehearsal, send each of your choir members a link to the product page of an anthem you plan to use. Ask them to listen to the recording and (if available) the composer interview. This will give them a good introduction to the piece before you even begin to rehearse.

Featured products

Samuel Metzger, organist at Coral Ridge Presbyterian Church in Coral Gables, Florida, begins each of their televised services with a joyous processional hymn. These settings on familiar hymns often use vocal descants and are well received by the congregation. A collection of these hymn treatments is now available for the first time in published form as [The Coral Ridge Festival Hymn Collection](#).

While there are too many other new releases to mention by name, let me call attention to Michael Burkhardt's setting of [Thine Is the Glory](#) and Charles Callahan's new collection of piano and organ duets [Three Preludes on American Hymntunes](#). Both of these publications should prove useful to many musicians and congregations.

One last item of interest is the new CD recording of the Luther College Christmas Festival. This festival was broadcast nationwide on PBS and features several MorningStar pieces. We are pleased to be able to [offer it here](#). Consider it a bit of early planning for next year.

Have a wonderful start to 2009.

UPCOMING CONFERENCES

Chorister's Guild Mid-Winter – Dallas, TX, Jan. 9 and 10

Calvin Institute of Christian Worship – Grand Rapids, MI, Jan. 29-31

American Choral Director's Convention – Oklahoma City, OK, March 4-7

