

## The World Beloved: A Bluegrass Mass

“Carol Barnett’s amazing “The World Beloved: A Bluegrass Mass” was given its world premiere by the VocalEssence Ensemble Singers in collaboration with the bluegrass band Monroe Crossing at Trinity Lutheran Church in Stillwater on Friday night. This was not an easy partnership...but her music was idiomatic enough and the musicians flexible enough that it sounded perfectly natural...Barnett traversed the two idioms quite ingeniously, bringing out the best in both ensembles. The contrasts between the sophisticated classical choral sound and the jubilant bluegrass harmonies were effectively used to make the text come alive...the triumphant Gloria...was an exuberant success. Likewise, the Credo...became a powerful Gospel number. This mass was a compelling statement of faith that ended on a note of sublime grace and peace.”

Excerpt from a review by  
William Randall Beard, Special to the Star Tribune  
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