

The Tears of Mary and Martha – PROGRAM NOTE

Kontakion on the Raising of Lazarus was written in the 6th century by the evocatively named St. Romanos the Melodist. I have adapted some nine stanzas from the original twenty of Matthew C. Steinberg's translation to reflect, first, the Lazarus narrative, and second, the prayerful contemplation of what that narrative means in our own lives.

Musically, I chose to use the simple but powerful primary harmonies of Greek Orthodox chant, mixed with richer chromatic sonorities and textures to enhance the narration, always returning to some form of the melodic contour associated with the refrain "the tears of Mary and Martha," the lovely phrase that originally drew me to this text.