

The World Beloved: A Bluegrass Mass – PROGRAM NOTE

To bring the solemnity of the classical choir-based mass together with the down home sparkle of bluegrass—now there's an assignment. My highest hope is that listeners coming from one tradition—classical or bluegrass—and perhaps dubious about the other, might discover something new and wonderful in the combination, as I have. Composing the music for *The World Beloved* has given me the chance to write cheery sacred music—all too rare in a medium rife with staid and even lugubrious settings. And it's brought me back to memories of music heard while visiting my grandparents, country music with a church flavor that told stories and came out of a scratchy old record player. Grandma would not have allowed dancing, but under the table I tapped my toes.

by Marisha Chamberlain, librettist

REDUCED PROGRAM NOTE

The World Beloved: A Bluegrass Mass combines the sacred classical choral tradition with the sparkling down home sound of banjo, mandolin and fiddle.