

News from Vocal Works

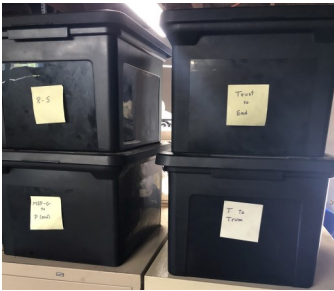
Summer 2024

Greetings from Dick Frantzreb

It's been a couple of years since I've put out a newsletter for everyone on the Vocal Works mailing list. Change is in the air for me, and I'd like to let you all know what is new. Here goes.

Distribution of Copyrighted Music

A Solo Bank listing with a red box means that I can provide an original of the music in question. Those originals of copyrighted music are stored in my garage in containers like these.



12 of these

The problem is that I may not have this storage space a year from now. That means I need to find some other person or organization who would accept this material and make it available to Solo Bank users and others. Another alternative might be to find some one or some organization that would be willing to store this material (without charge) until its disposition could be resolved.

[Click here](#) for the full story.



12 of these

Solo Bank Insurance - Access to the Solo Bank for Decades to Come

Since I started the Vocal Works website 20+ years ago, it has been a one-man operation, and unfortunately, the complexity of its design makes it virtually impossible to simply pass the site along to be maintained by another person or organization, while preserving the free access that has characterized the site from the beginning.

That means that someday this site will be unavailable – not soon, I trust, but someday. Out of my concern for those who rely on the resources provided by the site I sent, on 2/3/24, a message to the 375 churches and individuals on my mailing list, announcing “Solo Bank Insurance.”

Because of the way this site is designed, it is possible to put all its files, including the 2,100+ recordings, on a single flash drive. I'm calling it Solo Bank Insurance because having the files on a flash drive means that one can insert the flash drive into one's computer and access all the features of the site – without an Internet connection – thus making the key features of the site available for decades.

Of course, once on a flash drive, the site cannot be updated, and the current version of the flash drive reflects the site as it was on February 29, 2024. However, I expect to make an updated flash drive at 6-month intervals as long as I'm able, the next one coming on September 1.

The offer I made in early February to those on my mailing list was that I would send them the flash drive at a cost of \$215, and so far, 17 individuals and churches have ordered drives. My offer stands as long as I'm able to create the drives. Furthermore, purchasers will be able to get updated versions of the drive for just \$18 (my costs are \$12.55).

There is more detail in my original email of 2/3/24, which you can access [here](#).

To request a drive, call me (Dick Frantzreb) at 916/781-2900 or email frantz@vocal-works.com.



Calling All Composers of Sacred Solo Music

An Invitation. Think about the Solo Bank Insurance offer outlined on the previous page. Would you like your music to be included in that permanent archive?

I'm not offering to sing and record your compositions, but I invite you to submit your own recordings of your solo music that is appropriate for Christian Science churches. Perhaps I have already recorded some of your work. I would be glad to replace my recordings with yours, if you wish.

The History. Over the past 20+ years, I have built a collection of sacred solo music in the Solo Bank in the Vocal Works website. In the process, I have included all the compositions of 24 composers, from James MacDermid through Carolyn Kardinal. MacDermid's "Behold What Manner of Love" was published in 1913, and people can still listen to it, along with his other 52 compositions in the Solo Bank. Wouldn't you like people to be able to listen to your music in 2124?

The Plan. I expect to issue the next version of Solo Bank Insurance on September 1. It will be an image of the Vocal Works website on that date, and it will operate offline on Windows and Macintosh computers. The next Solo Bank Insurance after that will be issued on March 1.

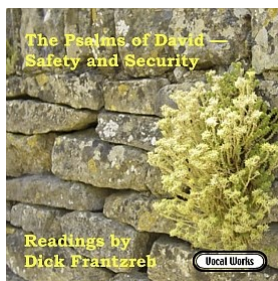
All I'm suggesting is that you send me recordings of your sacred solo music in any convenient form: CD, Wav, MP3, etc. I will convert to MP3 and ensure that the information in the file includes the details of performer, accompanist, composer and lyricist. I will then add the recording to the Solo Bank within days and confirm with you.

The Promise. So much wonderful solo music has been composed for Christian Science services over the past 120 years. I know, because I have experienced so much of it. I've done what I can to preserve appreciation for this music, but there's only so much that I have been able to do as a single individual. Guest singers have been welcome to contribute recordings to the Solo Bank since it was introduced, and so far, there are nearly 300 recordings from guest singers in the Solo Bank. Now I'm turning to composers, offering an opportunity for the inspiration and talent embodied in your music to be available to bless generations yet to come.

Composers for whom the Solo Bank has recordings of all their work	
Barnes, Frederick	MacDermid, James
Barton, Grove	Miller, Merle
Broones, Martin	Moore, Hunter
Carey, Karla	Newton, Emma Read
Collister, Robert	Nubel, Jennifer
De Remer, Marie	Rosen-Kemp, Marcia
Eikum, Denise	Schliapin, Nicholas
Foskett, Julie	Taylor, Henry
Goldsmith, Beverly	Thornton, Bill
Graham, William	Vignola, Denise
Kardinal, Carolyn	Wise, David
Kerr, Avelyn	Wylie, Katrina

The Psalms of David - Safety and Security

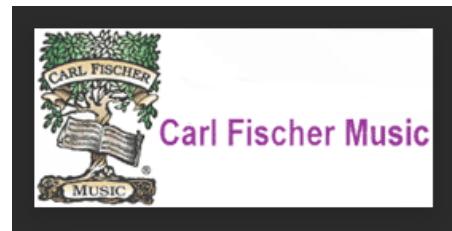
I was in the U.S. Army Reserve during the Viet Nam War, though I was not activated. Still, when the U.S. and allies invaded Iraq in 2003, I felt deep concern for those going into harm's way. I searched the Psalms for citations with assurances of God's protection in times of danger. Then I recorded those passages and published the recordings in an hour-long CD that I offered on the Vocal Works website almost 20 years ago.



This collection of readings and incidental music gives a comforting, strengthening sense of God's power and desire to protect man from danger, from malice, and from evil of every sort. After all these years, I decided just this past February to give Vocal Works users direct access to these recordings. [Click here](#) for an explanation of the background of this project, along with links to the full audio presentation, as well as everything in 4- to 5-minute segments.

Ordering Music from Carl Fischer Music

Carl Fischer Music has either published or holds the rights to much of the solo music performed in Christian Science churches over the past century, most of it currently under copyright. Besides music published by the Fischer organization, they hold the copyrights of music published by R.D. Row Music Co. and many other publishers that they have acquired over the years.



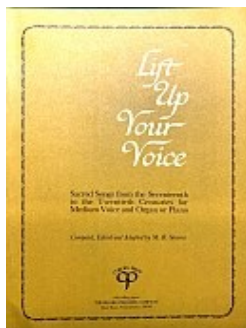
R. D. ROW MUSIC CO.
725 Boylston Street
BOSTON, MASS.

For a long time, I avoided trying to order music from Carl Fischer, thinking it would be too expensive. Then early this year, I found that, although the ordering process is a bit tedious, the price is not that bad - about \$14 to \$17 per title. [Click here](#) for step-by-step instructions.

Music available from Carl Fischer Music is indicated by a source code of "Y" in the Solo Bank.

Coburn Press Cleans Out Its Warehouse

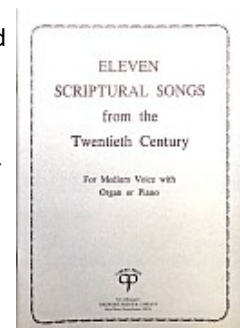
Coburn Press was founded by Marcia Bush Stearns, wife of well-known sacred music composer, Peter Pindar Stearns. The company is best known for *Lift Up Your Voice*, a collection of sacred solos that was compiled and edited by Ms.



Stearns and published in 1971. Recently, I got a call from the Stearns' daughter, Gloria Stearns-Bruner, who has had to store large quantities of Coburn Press music and would like to get as much of it as possible into the hands of those who could use it.

Let's start with *Lift Up Your Voice*. [Click here](#) to open the book's contents in a new window. Note that there are 40 to 50 words of lyrics for each of the 32 songs. And for a sense of the music, 11 of the songs have been recorded for the Solo Bank.

Eleven Scriptural Songs from the Twentieth Century was published in 1975, and Gloria Stearns-Bruner has sent me a quantity of those, as well. [Click here](#) for a list of the songs and composers. So far, two songs from this collection are in the Solo Bank.



Coburn Press also published single titles of sheet music in a series called *Solo Settings on Poems by Mary Baker Eddy*. [Click here](#) for further information, including ordering information for all these collections.

Perfect Copies of pre-1929 Music

All of the pre-1929 (out of copyright) music that I sell is sent as PDFs via email. And when I get tattered originals of that music, I have to discard it for space reasons. But occasionally I get copies of that music that are in perfect (or near-perfect) condition -- no markings, no fraying, no tears, etc. I haven't been able to bear discarding this 100-year-old music that has survived in such good condition. So now I have stacks of this music, perhaps 200 to 300 copies that I would like to distribute.

Maybe you have some music in your church library that is falling apart or hopelessly marked up by previous soloists. This would be a great opportunity to replace something that is not only out of print, but most likely unobtainable as an original.

If this interests you, send me an e-mail and ask about "pristine old music" or something similar, and I'll send you a list of what I have. Choose what you can use, and I'll quote a price that won't be much more than the cost of the postage.

