

BOOK REVIEW



John Smith
Professor of Old Testament
Studies at the Canadian
Reformed Theological
Seminary in Hamilton, Ontario
jsmith@crts.ca

Genevans for Pianists

Sheet Music: Psalmen Davids: Koraalvoorspelen & Harmonisaties voor Piano of Orgel. Boudewijn Zwart. Bell Moods, 2013. 36 pages. ISBN 978-90-821526-0-9

CD: Psalmen Davids Piano. Boudewijn Zwart BM1734. 2012. Made by Sony DADC Austria

Accompanying congregational singing in Canadian Reformed worship services was for many years virtually the exclusive domain of organists, whether well-trained or not so much, but over the past decade or two, pianists have increasingly been called into service. Initially many had to do their best with chorale books written for organ. Not seldom the result was that pianists played Genevans when they had to accompany the singing but turned to other genres for pre- and post-service music and during the collection. One can hardly blame them for preferring music actually written for their instrument! It's no easy task for pianists to find quality sheet music suitable for Reformed worship services. Thankfully the situation is beginning to change, due in large part to the diligent efforts of talented musicians in our own circles who have generously donated time and talents to produce Genevan arrangements for piano. It's a lot of work, and there's always room for more, so the purpose of this review is to introduce a little help from across the pond.

Boudewijn Zwart is a well-known pianist, organist, and carillonneur in The Netherlands. For those who enjoy a bit of Dutch bingo, he is the son of Jaap, nephew of Willem Hendrik and Dirk Jansz, and grandson of Jan Boudewijn. He has published a small collection of preludes and harmonizations. The collection includes nine Genevans: Psalms 4, 5 (64), 13, 17 (63, 70), 18 (144), 22, 23, 38, and 42. Six of these are recorded on the piano CD, which includes an additional twelve Psalms. Zwart plays precisely and sensitively, and his piano CD has become a favourite in our home of a Sunday morning or a quiet evening. I especially like the *Preludium* on Psalm 4 and the *Trio* on Psalm 42, both written in baroque style. The composer has included explanatory notes that explain his compositional choices in light of the text of Scripture. These notes also attest to his personal faith and his desire to give glory to God.

Zwart has also produced a double-CD set for organ, which includes arrangements of forty-three Psalms, so one may expect that more sheet music is forthcoming. All of the above products are available, either via the author's own website (www.bellmoods.com) or from the Canadian distributor, Inheritance Publications (<http://www.inhpubl.net/>).

