

# Wind Of Life

*A cantata celebrating  
the coming and gifts of the Holy Spirit*

*by*

*Paul F. Page*

## *Performance Notes*

***Wind Of Life*** is meant to be performed and prayed with an understanding of the history of the Holy Spirit in the lives of believers from the beginning of time. It is therefore cast within the framework of the Scriptures where we first learn about the works of the Holy Spirit. Each section is prefaced by a number of Scriptural texts that must be proclaimed by strong and sure voices and echoed by increasingly vibrant whisperings of the Holy Spirit's names as found in our common history.

The music of ***Wind Of Life*** is specifically composed to allow for the Assembly to sing most refrains along with the choir. Indeed, THEY are an integral part of the celebration of this music and must be included in any performance in a major way. The cantata builds to a high point with the simply-stated "The Gifts" which allows the Assembly the opportunity to pray a formal hymn in the manner of declaration. There are no key changes in this simple unison hymn, the primary uplifting interest being held by the accompaniment and by the clear statement of the Holy Spirit's so-called "seven gifts."

Solo singing is kept to a minimum throughout, but will be required in "Create In Me" and "Gift Of God," the latter taking the form of a mantra which is to be prayed reverently with possible additions of verse by a soloist either singing, improvising on the given text, or reciting another chosen text that is *apropos*. The "Veni Sancte Spiritus" is the traditional hymn from the *Liber Usualis* set with a bit of organum to display its quiet power. "Praise To The Spirit Of God" provides a rhythmic and driving conclusion and incorporates an easily-learned "echo" pattern sung between soloist and Assembly that alternates with two choral interludes.

Tempi should be carefully observed, though a feeling of rubato should dominate especially in the slower sections. Above all, a sense of profound joy in the gifts bestowed on us by the Spirit must be the prevailing mood. The silence between movements is critical. Let it fill the air.

San Jose  
21 May 1993