

“I have been privileged to study with some of the finest people, and talented musicians in the United States and abroad. I continue to grow and improve and give back to others my own God given talents and gifts as God continues to teach me through my own students at TLC, through workshops, seminars and events, and in my work as an organist and choral conductor, mentor, teacher, and modern day mystic. I believe that all music is reflective of God, although all music may not seek to be uplifting spiritually it’s roots are established from the beginning of time when there was only breath, void and darkness. Each of us has a unique song to sing, a story to tell and a purpose to be lived and fulfilled. I am grateful to follow the music where it leads me and to be a member of the spiritual, musical community that shares in creating a unique and diversified musical communication of glorifying God throughout the world.” Rachel Root, 2008

Rachel Root is Chair of the Music and Creative Arts Department at Trinity Lutheran College in Issaquah, Washington. She is a native of Midland, Michigan and studied voice, violin, organ and piano with Robert Rice, Kent Dennis, John Gray, Alice Kauer and Evelyn Knutson and was organist of Memorial Drive Presbyterian Church in Midland, Michigan prior to attending Michigan State University where she received her B.A. in Applied Organ and Church Music, under a four year scholarship. She received her M.A. in Organ and Church Music from Northwestern University, and her D.M. A. from the University of Washington. Her published dissertation, 2001, “Choral Rehearsal Memory Techniques,” deals with how the brain encodes and interprets music as well as music’s impact upon the brain and memory. Dr. Root continues to do research in the area of music therapy, and music as a spiritual healing tool.

In addition to her responsibilities at Trinity Lutheran College, Dr. Root has been an active choral conductor, lecturer, performer, and clinician. She has worked as an organist/conductor at churches in Michigan, Texas, and Washington State. In addition Dr. Root has conducted with Seattle Girls Choir, Spokane Area Children’s Chorus, The Sacred Music Chorale, Trinity Lutheran Church, Parkland, WA., The TLC choir, Issaquah, Washington, Seattle Symphony Summer Sings, Choral Sounds Northwest, Oberlin Congregational Church, Steilacoom, WA, and St. Mary’s Episcopal Church, where she is currently the organist and leader of contemporary worship.

Her performances have included, Faure’s *Requiem*, Mozart’s *Requiem*, *St. Matthew’s Passion*, J.S. Bach, *The Lord Nelson Mass*, Haydn, *The Creation*, Haydn, Rutter’s *Requiem*, Handel’s *Messiah*, and most recently *Lux Aeterna*, by Morten Lauridsen. Her compositions, *Unaccompanied Solo for Cello*, *Thank you God*, (S.A.T.B.,) *Willing Hands*, *Willing Hearts*, (for children’s choir, Tonechimes, piano, Violin, Flute, choir and congregation,) have been performed in Washington state and Colorado.

Dr. Root has been a recitalist/lecturer at Fourth Presbyterian Church, Chicago, IL., Exeter Cathedral, England, First Presbyterian Church, Midland, MI., and Yale Institute of Sacred Music, New Haven, CT.

Her major teachers include, Corliss R. Arnold, Wolfgang Rubsam, David Dahl, John Paynter, Richard Harris, Grigg Fountain, Geoffrey Boers, Abraham Kaplan, Steven

Demorest, and through master classes and workshops, Oliver Messiaen, John Rutter and Sir David Wilcocks.

These are some recent comments from recent performances regarding Dr. Root's personality, musicality, and spirituality;

"Dr. Root is not only an accomplished musician, she is a wonderful colleague," Abraham Kaplan, Professor Emeritus, University of Washington, Seattle, WA

"I have sung under dozens of conductors both as a soloist and as part of a choir and I place Dr. Root at the top of the heap as an outstanding conductor" Ann Redding, singer, Issaquah, WA.

"I have had the unique privilege of observing Dr. Root in her role as head of the worship and music department at Trinity Lutheran College at Issaquah, WA. The quality of discernment and the level of performance she has fostered in the students is beyond belief. She has built a curriculum to advance these students to the readiness of their calling in life. I am amazed at her gifts and realize every time I am able to talk with her that she is continuing to grow and learn. She is definitely an example from which I am happy to take my cue!" Jeffrey Meeks, Director of Music, University Place Presbyterian Church, University Pl., WA.

"It has been a pleasure to sing under your direction, and sing with your outstanding choir!" Laurie Larken

"We want to thank you so much for giving us the opportunity to sing the Lauridsen, "Lux Aeterna" and for the delightfully rewarding experience of doing so under your baton. Among the many things we appreciate about you are your sensitivity to the nuances of the music and to our specific needs and your ability to communicate the meaning and emotional import of those nuances. Some of us were dazzled by your seemingly mystical ability to coax unity out of diversity in the voicing procedure! Above all we are grateful that the spirit of God leads you in the work you do. You did nothing without prayer and all to the Glory of God!" Oberlin Congregational Church Choir, Steilacoom, WA.

If you are interested in contacting Dr. Root for workshops, clinics, lectures, conducting, and/or performing please contact her at rachel.root@tlc.edu.