

## Timothy Shaw Named 2019 Raabe Prize Winner



The Association of Lutheran Church Musicians is pleased to announce that Timothy Shaw is the recipient of the **2019 Raabe Prize for Excellence in Sacred Composition** for his choral submission, *Jesus, Refuge of the Weary*.

**Timothy Shaw** was born and raised in idyllic Keene, New Hampshire. He studied theology and music (theory, composition, piano) in college and graduate school, and he has enjoyed a multi-faceted career as a university professor, composer, music engraver, private teacher, author, and church musician. As a clinician and scholar, he has presented workshops, academic papers, hymn festivals, music reading sessions, and master classes at numerous conferences, churches, universities, and music societies throughout the United States. As a composer, he has written extensively for the church and is published by Augsburg Fortress, Beckenhorst, Choristers Guild, Concordia, Fred Bock, Hope, MorningStar Music, Neil A. Kjos, and Shawnee Press. He also composes on commission, and he has written for David Kim (Philadelphia Orchestra concertmaster), Anne Martindale-Williams (Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra principal cellist), and Abington Presbyterian Church (Abington, PA), among others. As a pianist, he has recorded three albums: *Hymns: Timothy Shaw at the Piano* (2004), *Rejoice! Devotional Hymn Settings* (2010), and *Hymns of Comfort and Praise* (2014). As an author, he is manager/editor of the Prelude Music Planner blog (Augsburg Fortress). He writes about music and worship, and he has published an eBook devotional for Advent (*Behold He Comes: Advent Reflections*). In addition to his many professional endeavors, he has volunteered as an ESL instructor, an assistant baseball coach, and a board member of a community boys' and girls' club. Tim and his wife Lauren live in Abington, PA, and are the proud parents of two boys.

The selection committee, once again headed by Dr. Zebulon Highben of Muskingum University, included the following comments regarding *Jesus, Refuge of the Weary* in their report to the ALCM board:

“There were many fine submissions among the entries in this year's competition. After several rounds of evaluation, the committee unanimously selected *Jesus, Refuge of the Weary* to recommend as the recipient of this year's prize.

“Among the outstanding attributes of this composition, the committee particularly noted:

- its lovely, gentle melody;
- the careful balance between traditional diatonic harmonies and “color” chords/notes;
- its judicious use of key, tempi, and rhythmic figures to illumine the character changes of the text;
- its sensibly smooth voice-leading and idiomatic piano writing;
- the beauty of the poetry, and its focus on Christ and the cross;
- the usefulness of this piece for many seasons and occasions, including (and especially) Lent; and
- its accessibility to choirs of varying sizes and abilities.”



The Raabe Prize for Excellence in Sacred Composition is awarded every two years for a single musical work, published or unpublished and written within the last five years, that reflects a larger history of excellence on the part of the composer. Dr. William and Nancy Raabe of Milton, WI, endowed this prize to recognize and encourage significant accomplishments in composition contributing to the body of sacred music for the church in the Lutheran heritage. Visit [www.alcm.org](http://www.alcm.org) for more information about the Raabe Prize.