

THE UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO  
TORONTO, CANADA

HEALEY WILLAN, Mus.Doc., LL.D., F.R.C.O.  
UNIVERSITY ORGANIST

15: 11: 54

139 INGLEWOOD DRIVE

Dear Dr. Gundy -

I want to say how very happy I am that the MS of my Homage Anthem should be added to the Library of Queen's University, and placed in such a goodly & honored company.

The "story" of the text is as follows:

When I was in London in November 1952 I received a note from Dr. - now Sir William McKie officially inviting me to write one of the Homage Anthems. He also asked me for the words so that he could submit them to the Archbishop of Canterbury for his approval. Obviously Latin was the order of the day. As an old choir boy I realized that all royal references in the Psalms were concerning kings and not Queens & I was immediately confronted with this difficulty. I also remembered however that during the reign of Queen Victoria there was a special service of thanksgiving for her long reign, and upon examining this in an old prayer book I found the order that "in place of the Venite shall be said or sung the following", which proved to be a compilation of various verses picked from the psalms, and wherever necessary the word "king" was changed to "queen" and the pronouns altered accordingly. I immediately made a hurried selection, and sent it to Dr. McKie, who in his turn sent it to the Archbishop

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2

by whom it was at once approved. I made  
a few sketches while in London & completed it  
upon my return. I think you will see the  
date of completion on the MS - 9:XI:52.  
I was very pleased with the way the words  
fell into place beginning, as they do them-  
selves, with an inscription of praise to the  
Almighty, followed by verses which refer to  
"our defender" and "thine avowed" which  
lead naturally to the specific verse, "Grant the  
Queen a long life." Then follows a short prayer.

I hope the above will meet the case  
and do not hesitate to delete or revise  
wherever you find it necessary, or if you find  
it too long.

Yr. Sincerely  
Healey Willan