

Anthem Notes for January 1, 2017

Wonderful Peace (Jul, jul, strålande jul)

Gustaf Nordqvist (1886-1949), arr. Dan Davison (b. 1956)

*Peace, peace, wonderful peace,
Peace to the world is given,
Hushed are the angels so still in the night,
Then in the East shown a heavenly light,
Join in the chorus, His praises sing!
Glory to God to the newly born King.
Peace, peace, wonderful peace,
Peace to the world is given.*

*Peace, peace, bearer of peace,
Men of good will receive Him.
Holiest of nights, O most wondrous of days,
Shepherds and kings lift their voices in praise.
Join in the chorus, His praises sing!
Glory to God to the newly born King.
Peace, peace, wonderful peace,
Peace to the world is given.*

This morning's anthem, *Wonderful Peace*, is an arrangement of a much loved and beautiful Swedish carol, known as *Jul, jul, strålande jul* (literally translated into English as "Christmas, Christmas, glorious Christmas."). One might easily describe this as a Swedish *Silent Night*. It has a graceful melody, a gentle, lilting feeling and a beautiful text, translated in English as "Peace, peace, wonderful peace, peace to the world is given. Hushed are the angels, so still is the night; then in the East shone a heavenly light.."

The English translation, which dwells on the peace that Christ brings, is a very loose translation of the Swedish text. It was done by the late Norman Luboff, very well known American choral director and founder of the



Edvard Evers

Walton Music Company (publisher of this particular arrangement). The Swedish text, penned by Edward Evers (1853-1919), Lutheran priest and hymnwriter, describes Christmas as white, then snow-filled, and depicts the rest of Christmas blessings with a wish that Christmas bring light and peace.



Norman Luboff

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The music was composed by Swedish composer Gustaf Nordqvist in 1921 as a solo with accompaniment. He later arranged for four-part choir which is how it is being sung today. It was recorded in 1924 and became one of the most sung and played Christmas carols in Sweden since its composition.

Nordqvist was a church organist and teacher as well as a composer. He contributed more than 200 works to the repertoire of Swedish sacred and art songs. He was appointed organist at the Adolf Fredrik church in Stockholm in 1914 and appointed professor of harmony at the Royal Conservatory of Music in 1924. He was voted into the Royal Swedish Academy of Music in 1932 and two years later he became the main organ teacher at the Karl Wohlfart School of Music. By the time of his death in 1949, Nordqvist had left a firm imprint on Sweden's cultural and musical life. His *Jul, jul, strålande jul* continues to be a favorite carol in Sweden and grows in popularity elsewhere, ensuring his legacy will live on.



Gustaf
Nordqvist

Today's arrangement was done by Dan Davison, long-time junior high choral director, who has received numerous awards for his role in music education, including the 2010 Outstanding Choral Director Award from the Washington chapter of American Choral Directors Association.

