

## Living Church - October 2005

### **LOVE NEVER ENDS: Sacred Sounds**

**Elisabeth von Trapp**

Church Publishing ([www.churchpublishing.org](http://www.churchpublishing.org)) \$18.

In this new collaboration with Church Publishing, Elisabeth von Trapp gives us new interpretations of some familiar and beloved hymns and songs. Deep River is here, and Herbert/Vaughan Williams' The Call, Hildegard's O Frondens Virga, Billings' When Jesus Wept. Her voice is sweet and pure with just enough mist around the edges; I'd love to hear the occasional chant or folk melody absolutely a capella. Most here are accompanied by guitar, piano or keyboard, and the lovely cello of Erich Kory, the sole instrument on a 13th-century Ave Maria and the pizzicato beneath Ave Verum Corpus.

Latin rhythms appear in unexpected spots (Comfort, Comfort Ye My People), as do jazz riffs. Skipped-heartbeat percussion underlies the canon When Jesus Wept, and the listener is pulled in to sing along. Second and third voices are indistinguishable but as harmony. It is beautiful, and thoughtful, music.

Notes beneath the disk tell us many of the selections are from our hymnals and supplements, *The Hymnal 1982*, *Lift Every Voice and Sing II*, *Wonder, Love, and Praise*, and *Voices Found*. I wish more information were offered, especially which of these songs are found in which collection. I can see church musicians wanting to take a fresh look at some of these, but having to search four indices to do so. Sources for selections not from these books are listed.

A subsequent CD is planned, and any listener to this one will be full of suggestions and requests. Oh, please include Daniel Pinkham's Apple Tree, and David Ashley White's So the day dawn for me, and The Huron Carol, with drum of course, and...

*Patricia Nakamura*