

I AM WITH YOU ALWAYS



Forum 2018

'I am with you always'
– together in God's mission –

Musician in Residence and the music at Forum

As **Musician in Residence at the CTE Forum** I was asked to write a piece of music for the closing worship session. The Lord's Prayer was my choice of text, because it is said in various ways in our different churches, but we come together here as brothers and sisters, praying as sons and daughters to our Father. By using the traditional words for the first part, and ending with a modern version of the Doxology, I planned to use two very different styles of music for the two distinct parts of the prayer.

The **Lord's Prayer** we sang at the Forum began with a setting of the *Pater Noster* by the Russian composer Nicolai Rimsky-Korsakov, sung in English by a wonderful choir made up of participants at the Forum. Two volunteers demonstrated simple sign language to everyone, and the worship group accompanied the final part of the prayer, using the music I had composed. To link the music together after the words "deliver us from evil", the sound of the harp emerged from the depths with long glissandos, sounding quite dramatic. The four-part choir then sang in unison in the style of a worship song with the words: "For yours is the kingdom, the power and the glory, for ever and ever, Amen." As with many worship songs, this was repeated so that more people could sing along, crescendo-ing up to the final Amen with the harp, stringed instruments and clashing cymbals. Thank you CTE, the Forum was the perfect situation for the first performance of this piece of music.

Musical highlights

The singers in the choir, together with Steven Cooper who was an excellent cantor, sang a beautiful **Taizé Night Prayer** at the end of the first day. This included a Latin chant, *Mane Nobiscum* (Stay with us, Lord) which was new to many of us, but was so appropriate to the theme of the Forum.

My workshop on **The Presence of Christ in Music** gave people time to share their own experiences of Christ in music, and then to be creative in making up short songs. Inspired by watching the YouTube video of *One Day* by Koolulam, everyone was then asked to work

together in twos and threes, to create one line of a song, beginning with the words “One day...” With the help of accompanist John Bowman, we ended the session by listening to some amazing lyrics, melodies and harmonies, covering a wide range of musical styles, as new song-writing talents came to light here for the first time.

This is the third Forum I have been involved in musically, and leading again with Noel Robinson has been a great joy, every time. In this year’s **Worship Group**, we were joined by harpist Rowena Bass, jazz pianist John Bowman, singer Diana Stanbridge and drummer Chris Beckett. The diversity of our instruments and our church backgrounds (Anglican, Baptist, Catholic, Pentecostal and Pioneer Church) just goes to show how music can unite us together in praise of God. In the words of one of the songs that emerged from our workshop, we pray that **“One day Christ will be seen in our one-ness”**.

Teresa Brown
20 September 2018

www.devinemusic.org.uk

For the video of the music commissioned for this Forum, click the link on:
www.cte.org.uk/Forum2018/afterwards