



Marty Haugen was honored as Fellow of The Hymn Society in the United States and Canada during a dinner held on Wednesday, July 17, during the Annual Conference in Atlanta, Georgia.

Marty Haugen is best known as a liturgical composer, with more than 400 works published mostly by GIA Publications and Augsburg Fortress. The vast majority of his compositions are intended for congregational singing.

Born in 1950 in Zumbrota, Minnesota, Haugen grew up in a family that frequently gathered to sing around the piano. He studied piano, violin, trombone, and organ, and during high school served as organist at the nearby Lutheran church to which his family belonged. He studied piano and music theory at

Luther College, Decorah, Iowa, graduating in 1973. He also pursued graduate studies at Luther Seminary in St. Paul; at the St. Paul School of Divinity at the University of St. Thomas; and at the United Theological Seminary of the Twin Cities, where he received an M.A. in 1993.

Marty became music director at a Roman Catholic parish in the Twin Cities area in 1972, just seven years after the Second Vatican Council ended. Vernacular languages were gradually being introduced into the liturgy beginning in late 1964, and the reformed Order of Mass had been implemented in the United States just two years prior. There was a great need for new music that congregations could sing in English. Serving as music director at two different parishes from 1972 until 1985, Haugen began to compose music for the liturgy, primarily to fill the musical needs of his own communities. Though not a Catholic himself, Haugen deeply respected the traditions of Roman Catholicism and engaged in formal studies that undergirded his composing work.

His compositions are best known and most widely sung in Roman Catholic churches. Hymnary.org lists 146 texts and 276 tunes that Haugen has written. Among his best-known hymns are "Here in this place," "Let us build a house," "Shepherd me, O God," "Healer of our every ill," "We remember," "Awake, awake, and greet the new morn," and "You are salt for the earth, O people." He has also composed several Mass settings for the Roman Catholic liturgy, many of them included in hymnals published by GIA and others.

Haugen has been a musical bridge builder who has helped bring people together through song. *Mass of Creation*, a musical setting of the official liturgical texts, was published in 1985 (revised in 2011) and has enjoyed wide popularity because it bridges the gap between "traditional" and "folk" styles of liturgical music and can be accompanied by organ, piano, or instrumental ensemble. Many of Marty's hymns, psalm settings, and other Mass settings are also composed in such a way that they are accessible to musicians and congregations accustomed to either classical or popular styles.

Marty has composed several Lutheran liturgical settings, including *Holden Evening Prayer* (1990) *Now the Feast and Celebration* (1990), and *Unfailing Light* (with Susan Briehl, 2004). Many of his works appear in *Evangelical Lutheran Worship*, including twenty hymns and Holy Communion Setting Two. His musical compositions have had broad ecumenical and international reach. He has consulted with several denominations in the development of new hymnals, and his works can be found in the published resources of churches throughout the English-speaking world.

In addition to his own composing, Haugen has collaborated on collections of psalms and worship music, has performed concerts, and produced dozens of recordings. He has also conducted hundreds of workshops on music and worship and has contributed to several books and journals. He has been an active member of The Hymn Society, serving as a leader or presenter at several annual conferences and most recently participating as a panelist for a webinar on what songs the church needs to be singing. He was named a Fellow of the Royal School of Church Music in 2020.

The Executive Committee is pleased to name Marty Haugen a Fellow of The Hymn Society in recognition of his contributions to congregational song as a composer, clinician, song leader, and bridge builder.

Submitted by J. Michael McMahon, Executive Director of The Hymn Society in the United States and
Canada.