

ROBERT SIROTA

COMPOSER

PROGRAM NOTES

TWO LENTEN CHORALE PRELUDES (1978)

Program note by Robert Sirota:

Written in 1978, the *Two Lenten Chorale Preludes* are contemplative works based on great German Lutheran chorales:

Herzliebster Jesu ("Ah, Holy Jesus") is taken from the 17th century tune composed by Johann Crüger and words by Johann Heermann, based on Isaiah 53:4: "Surely he took our pain and bore our suffering..."

An Wasserflüssen Babylon, based on the 16th century setting of Psalm 137 ("By the waters of Babylon, there we sat down and wept when we remembered Zion...") by Wolfgang Dachstein, has to be the saddest melody ever written in a major key.