

to Martha Shaak and the choirs of
Palmyra (PA) Church of the Brethren

PRAISE GOD WITH MUSIC!

for S.A.T.B. voices, accompanied,*
with optional handbells, trumpet,
and congregational refrain**

Words by
DON BESIG and NANCY PRICE (ASCAP)

Music by
DON BESIG (ASCAP)

With majesty (♩ = ca. 104)

HANDBELLS
(optional)

TRUMPET
(optional)

ACCOMP.

(If handbells are not used, begin at measure 8)

4

* Also available for S.A.B. voices, No. 11441.

** Parts for trumpet and congregational singing may be found on pages 15 and 16, respectively.
Part for 3-octave handbells is available separately, No. 7242.

8

SW ↓ ↑ SW ↓ ↑

f

8

f

12 SOPRANO

ALTO

TENOR

BASS

*f*unis.

In

*f*unis.

LV

12

16

joy - ful al - le - lu - ias Our voi - ces now we —

16

19

raise. We share the gift of mu - sic In

19

22 24

hymns of grate - ful praise. We join our hearts in

22 24

25 unis.

sing - ing Of God's un - fail - ing love. Our

unis.

25

28

songs pro-claim God's glo - ry In earth and heav'n a - bove.

28

32

smoothly
mf unis.

God's

(tacet)

mf smoothly

(tacet)

32

mf smoothly

36

beau - ty all a - round us Cre - ates a won - drous song. The *mf* *unis.*

40

earth, the rain, the riv - ers Add voi - ces clear and strong. All *mf*

44

na - ture joins the cho - rus In joy - ful mel - o - dy, And

48 *cresc.* 51 *f*

all of God's cre - a - tion U - nites in - har - mo - ny.

cresc. *f*

(HANDBELLS)

(TRUMPET)

48 *cresc.* 51 *f*

52

cresc. LV

f *cresc.*

52 *cresc.*

56 **DESCANT** (*a few sopranos*) *rit.* **ff**

ALL VOICES (*and opt. congregation*) **ff**

We

We

LV *rit.*

56 **ff**

59 **Broadly** (♩ = ca. 92 - 96)

cel - e - brate with mu sic, Let bells and trum - pets

cel - e - brate with mu - sic, Let bells and trum - pets

Broadly (♩ = ca. 92 - 96)

ff SW ↓

Broadly (♩ = ca. 92 - 96)

59 **Broadly** (♩ = ca. 92 - 96)

62

ring. We — praise the Lord with glad - ness, Let

S., T.

A., B.

ring. We praise the Lord with glad - ness, Let

ff

62

65

all God's — peo - ple sing

unis.

all God's — peo - ple sing. In joy - ful al - le -

ff

SW ↓ ↑

65

67

68

In joy our voi - ces now we raise. We

lu - ias our voi - ces now we raise. We

68

71

share the gift of mu - sic In hymns of grate - ful

share the gift of mu - sic In hymns of grate - ful

S., T.
A., B.

71

74

praise.

(end congregation)

praise.

S. *ff*

A. To

T. *ff*

B.

74

77

God our hymns we raise.

(unis.)

LV

SK

77

80

A men. A

SK SK

80

80

83

men.

SK SK

83

83

Praise God with Music! is a general anthem that is especially appropriate for choir dedication services. Suggested corresponding lectionary readings include Exodus 17: 1-7, Psalms 95 and 96, Matthew 16: 13-20, and Romans 11: 33-36. One basic homiletical theme is praising the Creator with the gift of music.

In rehearsal, strive for very fluid four-measure phrases. To improve ensemble precision and the sense of legato, practice singing m. 15-31 on "noo" pulsing constant eighth notes until a very smooth sound is achieved. Listen carefully for the naturally rising and falling contours, shaping the phrases dynamically and breathing precisely together. Add the text without sacrificing artful phrasing or ensemble precision. Particular attention should be given the moving eighth note passage found in m. 45-46 so that the eighth notes are precisely aligned and clearly heard. Practice this passage on staccato "doo" lightly but with great energy. Repeat the staccato exercise while singing the text. Finally, sing the passage legato without negating the energy and clarity of the staccato articulation.

This anthem may be performed with choir and keyboard alone or with the addition of three-octave handbells and/or solo trumpet. If handbells are not available, the keyboard should begin playing at measure 8. The newly-composed melody is very tuneful and hymn-like, making it ideal for congregational participation (see the part for congregational singing on page 16).

Nancy Price holds B.M. and M.M. degrees in music from Ithaca College. She began singing in elementary school choirs directed by Don Besig and in her senior year of college first worked with him as a lyricist. Since 1980 they have collaborated on over one hundred fifty compositions for school and church. Both Besig and Price have received several ASCAP Special awards.

Don Besig is Director of Music at Perinton Presbyterian Church in Fairport, New York. He has over thirty years of experience teaching vocal music in the public schools of western New York. Recognizing a need for choral music written especially for student singers, Besig began composing for his own choirs. Since 1973, over three hundred of his compositions and arrangements have been published.

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TRUMPET

Music by
DON BESIG (ASCAP)

With majesty (♩ = ca. 104)

The musical score is written for a trumpet in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It consists of ten staves of music. The tempo is marked 'With majesty' with a quarter note equal to approximately 104 beats per minute. The score includes various dynamics such as *f* (forte), *rit.* (ritardando), *ff* (fortissimo), and *cresc.* (crescendo). There are also performance instructions like 'Broadly' and 'Breathe'. Measure numbers are indicated in boxes at the beginning of each staff: 7, 8, 12, 16, 17, 24, 30, 32, 36, 44, 51, 52, 57, 59, 62, 67, 72, 77, and 82. A large red watermark reading 'PREVIEW ONLY' is overlaid diagonally across the score, with the text 'Legal Use Requires Purchase' written below it.

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for congregational singing

Words by

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Music by

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Verse 1:
(Choir only)

In joyful alleluias
Our voices now we raise.
We share the gift of music
In hymns of grateful praise.
We join our hearts in singing
Of God's unfailing love.
Our songs proclaim God's glory
In earth and heav'n above.

Verse 2:
(Choir only)

God's beauty all around us
Creates a wondrous song.
The earth, the rain, the rivers
Add voices clear and strong.
All nature joins the chorus
In joyful melody,
And all of God's creation
Unites in harmony.

Verse 3:
Choir and Congregation



We cel - e-brate with mu - sic, Let bells and trum-pets ring. We



praise the Lord with glad - ness, Let all God's peo - ple sing. In



joy - ful al - le - lu - ias Our voi - ces now we raise. We



share the gift of mu - sic In hymns of grate - ful praise.

Postlude:
(Choir only)

To God our hymns we raise.
Amen. Amen.

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