## WHAT WONDROUS LOVE IS THIS?

for S.A.T.B. voices, accompanied\*

TRADITIONAL AMERICAN FOLK HYMN
Arranged by MARK HAYES



<sup>\*</sup> Also available for S.A.B. voices, No. 16161.

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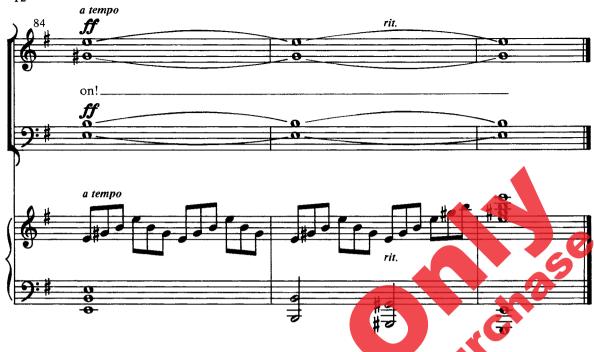












What Wondrous Love Is This? is one of the most beloved traditional American folk hymns. It first appeared in print in 1835 in William Walker's Southern Harmony. Appropriate for Lent, Holy Week and Eastertide, this anthem may also be sung throughout the church year, especially for All Saints', fineral and memorial services. Suggested corresponding lectionary readings include Deuteronomy 21: 23, Psalm 98, John 15: 9-17, Acts 10: 44-48 and 1 John 5: 1-6. One basic homiletical theme is singing the marvelous news of God's great love for us in sending His Son, Jesus Christ, to bear the heavy cross for our salvation.

In rehearsal, strive for a fluid phrasing, a feeling of two pulses per measure and artful text declamation. Each phrase begins with an anacrusis or "pick-up" note. The pick-up note receives less stress than the note that follows it. For example, in mm. 9-10, the initial half-note (on the word "what") should not be accented, but should be sung with a very slight feeling of crescends to the downbeat of the next measure. Rehearse mm. 31-49 a cappella singing "noo" until each of the rich chromatic chords is well-tuned. Sing mm. 50-57 staccato on "doo" until the choir is aware of each moving line. Add the text while clearly articulating the entrance of each moving part.

Mark Hayes is an award-winning concert pianist, composer and arranger of sacred choral, piano, and orchestral music. With over 400 published works to his credit, Mark has also recorded numerous solo piano albums and has received the Gospel Music Association's prestigious Dove Award, which is equivalent to a Grammy in gospel music. A graduate of Baylor University, he has served as an adjunct professor of composition at Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Kansas City, Missouri.