

Portraits in Song
Great Hymnwriters

Medium High

An Anthology or Program for Solo Voice & Piano
for Concert & Worship

8 Best-Loved Hymns with Reproducible Program Notes

Featuring Arrangements by Jay Althouse, Patti Drennan, Mark Hayes,
Lloyd Larson, Anna Laura Page, Jean Anne Shafferman, and Douglas E. Wagner

Medium High Book (25854)	ISBN 0-7390-4212-2
Medium High Book & Accompaniment CD (25855)	ISBN 0-7390-4213-0
Medium High Accompaniment CD (25856)	ISBN 0-7390-4313-7
Medium Low Book (25860)	ISBN 0-7390-4218-1
Medium Low Book & Accompaniment CD (25861)	ISBN 0-7390-4219-X
Medium Low Accompaniment CD (25862)	ISBN 0-7390-4314-5

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Cover Design by Cathy Ciccarelli Graphics

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FOREWORD

Song is distinguished from other musical forms by the presence of text. Hymns are songs with texts that praise God, and it is by the first lines of these texts that hymns are popularly titled. Yet, text writers remain, for the most part, the “unsung heroes” of hymnody.

This anthology is a celebration of some of the greatest of these heroes, spanning approximately 200 years from the late 18th to the early 20th centuries. These great hymnwriters are a diverse group, including a blind female poet (Fanny Crosby), a former slave ship captain (John Newton), and an eminent scholar/pastor/statesman (Henry Van Dyke). Their common bond is a devout faith and a gift for expressing that faith with words.

Vocal students and recitalists will discover in this collection inspired arrangements in a broad variety of styles that foster the art of singing, with piano accompaniments conceived in the tradition of art song. Reproducible program notes (pages 50–51) enhance the performer’s understanding and are an excellent source for printed recital programs.

Great Hymnwriters is also an outstanding worship resource for the church musician. The songs may be performed individually, or grouped together to create a special program celebrating our rich heritage of hymnody.

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O FOR A THOUSAND TONGUES TO SING

Words by
CHARLES WESLEY (1707–1788)

Music by **CARL G. GLÄSER** (1784–1829)
 Arranged by **LOWELL MASON** (1792–1863)
 Setting by **DOUGLAS E. WAGNER** (ASCAP)

Moderately; with freedom (♩ = ca. 69) *poco rit.* *mf*

ACCOMP. *mp* *poco rit.*

5 *a tempo* *f*

for a thou - sand tongues to sing my great Re-deem - er's praise, the

a tempo *mf*

9 *poco rit.* *a tempo*

glo-ries of my God and King, the — tri-umphs of His grace!

a tempo *poco rit.*

Detailed description: This is a musical score for a hymn. It features a vocal line and an accompaniment (ACCOMP.) in 3/4 time with a key signature of one sharp (F#). The tempo is 'Moderately; with freedom' at approximately 69 beats per minute. The score is divided into three systems. The first system shows the vocal line starting with a whole rest, followed by a half note 'O'. The accompaniment begins with a piano (*mp*) dynamic. The second system starts at measure 5, marked 'a tempo', with the vocal line singing 'for a thou - sand tongues to sing my great Re-deem - er's praise, the'. The accompaniment continues with a piano (*mf*) dynamic. The third system starts at measure 9, marked 'poco rit.', with the vocal line singing 'glo-ries of my God and King, the — tri-umphs of His grace!'. The accompaniment also has a 'poco rit.' marking. The score concludes with a final 'a tempo' marking.

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BLESSED ASSURANCE

Words by
FANNY J. CROSBY (1820–1915)

Music by
PHOEBE PALMER KNAPP (1839–1908)
Arranged by
PATTI DRENNAN (ASCAP)

With a gospel feeling (♩ = ca. 108)

ACCOMP. *mf*

5

9

13

mf

1. Bless - ed as - sur - ance, Je - sus is —
2. Per - fect sub - mis - sion, per - fect de -

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