

for the choir of St. Francis by the Sea Catholic Church,  
Hilton Head Island, SC

# O, THAT I HAD A THOUSAND VOICES

A General or Communion Anthem\*

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

Verse 1 by JOHANN MENTZER (1658-1734)  
Verses 2,3 by JAY ALTHOUSE

Music by  
JAY ALTHOUSE

Moderato (♩ = ca. 120) 3 *unis. f*

SOPRANO  
ALTO

TENOR  
BASS

TRUMPET  
(opt.)

ACCOMP.

4

had a thou sand voic - es, \_\_\_\_\_

*fp* \_\_\_\_\_ *f*

4

\* For Communion, sing optional text for Verse 2.

\*\* Parts for B♭ Trumpet and Congregational Refrain may be found on pages 11 and 12, respectively.

7

And with a thou-sand tongues could tell \_\_\_\_\_

*fp* *f*

11

Of him in whom the earth re-joic-es, \_\_\_\_\_

11

15

Who all things wise - ly does and well.

15

19

21 *mf*

O, that I had a thou - sand  
 \* O, that the peo - ple of the

*mf*

19

21 *mf*

\* Optional Communion text.  
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23

prais - es, \_\_\_\_\_ And\_ with a thou - sand hymns could  
 na - tions \_\_\_\_\_ to\_ God a thou - sand hymns could

*unis.*

*mf*

23

27

29 *unis.*  
 sing \_\_\_\_\_ Of Him, whom all man - kind up -  
 sing, \_\_\_\_\_ and drink the cup of God's sal -

*unis.*

sing, \_\_\_\_\_ could \_\_\_\_\_ sing  
sing, \_\_\_\_\_ could \_\_\_\_\_ sing,

*mf*

27

29

31 *unis.*

rais - es,  
va - tion

One God of ev - 'ry liv - ing  
in peace to ev - 'ry liv - ing  
*unis.*

31

35 37 *mp*

thing.  
thing.

*mp* God of the wind and wa - ters, and

35 37 *mp*

39 *unis. cresc. poco a poco*

of the stars and sky, Cre - a - tor of the earth and heav - ens,

*unis. cresc. poco a poco*

39 *cresc. poco a poco*

43 *f mf*

Praise the Lord most high.

*f*

*mf f rit.*

43 *f rit.*

46 Broadly (♩ = ca. 100)  
(optional congregational refrain through m. 61)

*unis.*

O, that I had a thou-sand voic - es, \_\_\_\_\_

*unis.*

Broadly (♩ = ca. 100)

*fp*

46 Broadly (♩ = ca. 100)

And with a thou-sand tongues could tell \_\_\_\_\_

*fp*

*f*

54

Of Him in whom the earth re - joic - es

The first system contains two vocal staves. The upper staff is in treble clef and the lower staff is in bass clef. The music consists of a single melodic line with lyrics underneath. The notes are: G4, A4, B4, C5, B4, A4, G4, F4, E4, D4.

54

The piano accompaniment for measures 54-57. It features a treble and bass clef. The right hand plays chords and single notes, while the left hand plays a steady bass line. The music is in a simple, homophonic style.

58

Who all things wisely does and well.

*cresc. poco a poco*

The second system contains two vocal staves. The upper staff is in treble clef and the lower staff is in bass clef. The music consists of a single melodic line with lyrics underneath. The notes are: G4, A4, B4, C5, B4, A4, G4, F4, E4, D4. The instruction *cresc. poco a poco* is written above the staff.

58

The piano accompaniment for measures 58-61. It features a treble and bass clef. The right hand plays chords and single notes, while the left hand plays a steady bass line. The music is in a simple, homophonic style. The instruction *cresc. poco a poco* is written below the staff.



62

(Choir only)

*rit.* *ff*

O, that I had a thou - sand voic - es.

*ff*

*rit.* *ff* (detached)

62

*rit.* *ff* detached

The image shows a musical score for a choir. It consists of two systems of staves. The first system has a vocal line (treble clef) and a piano accompaniment line (bass clef). The vocal line contains the lyrics 'O, that I had a thou - sand voic - es.' with musical notation above it. The piano accompaniment has chords and some melodic lines. The second system also has a vocal line and a piano accompaniment line. The vocal line has a few notes and rests, with the word '(detached)' above it. The piano accompaniment continues with chords and some melodic lines. There are dynamic markings like 'rit.' and 'ff' throughout. A large red watermark 'Preview Only' is overlaid on the score.

**O, That I Had a Thousand Voices** is an uplifting general anthem that is also appropriate for Communion (especially World Communion), Peace Sunday, and Epiphany (the Baptism of Jesus). Suggested corresponding lectionary readings include Genesis 1: 1-19, Psalms 98 and 128, Matthew 26: 26-30, and Philippians 4: 1-9. One basic homiletical theme is that the voices of all nations should join in singing the Creator's praise.

The many unison scale passages provide the perfect vehicle for developing good ensemble intonation. Rehearsal of these phrases (m. 3-18, 40-42, 46-61) on a neutral syllable will allow proper focus of tone and enhance uniform pitch. Work for sensitive text declamation with a basic feeling of two pulses per measure. The exciting sweep of the opening melody is especially memorable and affords the choir a wonderful opportunity to partner with the congregation in the singing of this anthem.

**Jay Althouse** has written choral music for all levels of school and church choirs. He has over 250 choral compositions and arrangements in print. Jay received a B.S. in Music Education and an M. Ed. in Music from Indiana University of Pennsylvania. He currently resides in Hilton Head, South Carolina.

# O, THAT I HAD A THOUSAND VOICES

TRUMPET IN Bb

Music by  
JAY ALTHOUSE

Moderato (♩ = ca. 120)

The musical score consists of ten staves of music in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The tempo is Moderato, with a quarter note equal to approximately 120 beats per minute. The score includes various dynamics such as *f*, *fp*, *mf*, *mp*, and *ff*. Performance markings include accents, slurs, and a *rit.* (ritardando) section starting at measure 46. A *detached* marking is present at the end of the piece. Measure numbers 3, 6, 11, 17, 21, 24, 29, 31, 36, 37, 46, 50, 54, 56, and 62 are indicated in boxes. 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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# O, THAT I HAD A THOUSAND VOICES

for congregational singing

Verse 1 by JOHANN MENTZER (1658-1734)  
Verses 2, 3 by JAY ALTHOUSE

Music by  
JAY ALTHOUSE

**Verse 1:**  
(Choir only) O, that I had a thousand voices,  
And with a thousand tongues could tell  
Of Him in whom the earth rejoices,  
Who all things wisely does and well.

**Verse 2:**  
(Choir only) O, that I had a thousand praises,  
And with a thousand hymns could sing  
Of Him, whom all mankind upraises,  
One God of ev'ry living thing.

**Alternate Verse 2:**  
(Communion - Choir only) O, that the people of the nations,  
to God a thousand hymns could sing,  
and drink the cup of God's salvation  
in peace to ev'ry living thing.

**Verse 3:**  
(Choir only) God of the wind and waters,  
and of the stars and sky,  
Creator of the earth and heavens,  
Praise the Lord most high.

**Verse 4:**  
Choir and Congregation

O, that I had a thou - sand voic - es, \_\_\_\_\_  
And with a thou - sand tongues could tell \_\_\_\_\_  
Of Him in whom the earth re - joic - es \_\_\_\_\_  
Who all things wise - ly does and well. \_\_\_\_\_

**Postlude:** O, that I had a thousand voices!  
(Choir only)

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