

FOREWORD

As I sat down to invent these reflections on well-loved hymns, two things amazed and humbled me. First, I am amazed again at the great treasury of hymns I have heard, sung, played, and loved all my life. Then, I am honored to have played and listened to and wept over the music of such great composers as Bach, Brahms, Schubert, Beethoven and many more. I hope you can hear traces of those composers in these little reflections, and I hope the great hymns whose melodies we play here will bless, teach, inspire, and delight you all over again.

Ken Medema



FROM THE PUBLISHER

Years ago, Ken Medema was a Word Records artist, largely discovered by Kurt Kaiser and Charles F. Brown. Since those days, Ken has continued to inspire and amaze countless listeners and worshippers with his unique and uncommonly creative brand of musical expression. So it is with joy and excitement that we welcome Ken back to the Word family of contributors, this time with a collection of reflective settings of familiar hymns.

In an age when the word “artist” is tossed around frequently, Ken Medema is a true artist in the best sense of the word. In these pages, you will find his sensitive and insightful talents painting new brush strokes on these classic hymns, bringing a fresh touch to songs you’ve probably known and loved for a long time.

Although this book is titled *Piano Vespers* (titled to reflect the quiet nature of the collection), the arrangements are useful in a variety of settings all year long... for communion, preludes, postludes, offertories, memorial services or any time something artful and quiet is needed. In addition, there is a listening recording of these songs available (performed by Ken Medema), useful for interpretive ideas as well as personal devotional time.

Word Music

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Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence

French Carol
Arranged by Ken Medema

Moderately, rubato ♩ = 80

Musical notation for measures 1-3. The piece is in 4/4 time with a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The first measure starts with a forte (*f*) dynamic. The melody in the right hand consists of quarter notes, and the bass line in the left hand consists of quarter notes.

Musical notation for measures 4-6. The melody continues with quarter notes in the right hand and quarter notes in the left hand.

Musical notation for measures 7-9. Measure 7 begins with a mezzo-forte (*mf*) dynamic. A tempo change occurs at the start of measure 8, marked *molto rit.* (ritardando). The tempo returns to the original *mf a tempo* at the start of measure 9. The melody in the right hand features eighth notes and quarter notes, while the bass line consists of quarter notes.

Musical notation for measures 10-12. The melody in the right hand continues with eighth notes and quarter notes, and the bass line consists of quarter notes.

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Come, Ye Sinners, Poor and Needy

Traditional American Melody,
Walker's *Southern Harmony*, 1835
Arranged by Ken Medema

Slightly rubato ♩ = ca. 70

5

9

L.H.: lightly, detached

Steady, in tempo ♩ = 70

13

L.H. cont. simile

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