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A thrice-annual periodical for singers and writers of dispersed harmony & fasola music

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## In this Issue

The new year of 2012 is upon us, and the singing season is well under way! The All-California singing weekend, Auburn Alabama, the Keystone Convention, and a winter singing School in Cullman County are just a few of the wonderful events that have marked the singing year thus far. There have been losses and tragedies as well, including the death of John Merritt, a loss that will be felt for some time. Maybe you will page back to issue No. 2 and sing the song "Traveler's Rest" on page 30, which he and Timothy Gilmore composed. If you do you will be moved by these lines:

His own soft hand shall dry my tears And hold me to his breast; Then take me homeward through the skies, Unto the trav'ler's rest.

Although we begin each new year focused on new possibilities, there is also a place for reflection as well. In this issue of *The Trumpet* many songs are dedicated to specific singers in the form of a memorial or prayer for healing (IVEY, MELANIE). We also find many pieces of greater length, an anthem by Dan Harper, and set-piece by Steve Helwig, as well as a pair of three-line songs for you altos who like to sing on the bass. We welcome the contributions of a trio of Alabama writers, Stanley Smith, Ed Thacker and Linda Sides, and are grateful for their contributions. We are excited to begin our second year with a substantial & heartfelt offering of tunes — opening with a fanfare (Clinton) and closing with a lullaby (Hans). We trust that you, the singers, will savor each song for the particular poignancy or uplifting power that each author was inspired to note down. We are also very grateful to Mike Hinton for the memories of his Uncle Paine, and Robert Stoddard for his report on the Novermber *Trumpet* singing.

Please continue to download and share back issues of *The Trumpet* from our website ~ and keep your recordings coming in — a compilation of songs from year one is in the works which will be much appreciated by the tune-writers themselves.

Sing on! Sincerely,

The Editors ed@singthetrumpet.com

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# The Trumpet Sounds

#### By Robert Stoddard

It's not every singing where you are handed an iPad as you walk in, but then, this wasn't just any singing: it was the first full singing of *The Trumpet*, Volume 1, taking place on Nov. 6, 2011.

*Trumpet* editor Tom Malone took the lead in organizing the singing and, as in the Watts verse, he:

Sends His summons forth,

Calls the south nations and awakes the north; ...

The Trumpet sounds; hell trembles, heav'n rejoices;

Lift up your heads, ye saints, with cheerful voices.

And many heard his summons! About 16 of us gathered on a fine, crisp November Sunday at the music building of the University of Massachusetts at Lowell, where Tom is on the music faculty. While many singers were locals, others came from Rhode Island, Vermont, and even Oregon. We were also fortunate to have several of the composers of works in *The Trumpet* join us: Steve Helwig, Dan Hertzler, Tom Malone and me.

There are many singings that Elizabeth and I have attended over the years where the venue alone was enough to inspire a great singing: a rustic chapel, perhaps, tucked in a quiet pine woods or set in a grassy meadow. UMass Lowell was not such a venue! Its modern concrete, institutional buildings seemed an unlikely place, but the music rehearsal room that Tom had selected was a fine singing space for our small group to match our goal: to produce crisp recordings of all 47 tunes published in Volume 1 of *The Trumpet*.

As befitted the modernity of the space, the singing was more "high tech" than any I have attended. In addition to the aforementioned iPads, Tom provided an ordered list of tunes for each of the three sessions. The list for each session was projected on a screen, on which leaders signed up. One issue of *The Trumpet* was slated for each session, our breaks timed with military precision to complete the singing on schedule. And so, with a couple of MP3 recorders silently documenting our efforts, we began with a few warm-ups from *The Sacred Harp*, 1991 Edition, and then launched into our Trumpetizing.

We learned a great deal from the day. First, shape-notes truly work! Sight-singing 47 tunes, some of which were fairly complex, would be an unthinkably difficult task for almost any choir. Doing so in four hours, with a pick-up group of singers, was possible because of our ability to guide our voices with the shapes.

Second, an afternoon singing unfamiliar tunes is truly taxing. Singing is, as George Seiler put it, "the best exercise you can get sitting down," but this *Trumpet* marathon reminded me of what good mental exercise singing is, as well. Perhaps we should add intensive sight-singing to the list of Sudoku and crossword-puzzles as sovereign wards against Alzheimer's! In a typical Sacred Harp singing, nearly half of the calls are of the 100 most popular tunes, giving even a moderately experienced singer occasions to settle into a comfortable tune. Not so on this day! Even those who had ambitiously practiced the tunes had to pay close attention to unfamiliar harmonies and entrances.

A third take-away for me from the day was a greater appreciation of the high quality and diversity of talent of the composers. There is no one, single "Sacred Harp" style of song, either in *The Sacred Harp* or in *The Trumpet*. New composers are working in a full range of these traditions, ranging across English folk-tunes, West Gallery, New England plain and fuging tunes, camp-meeting revival songs, and Denson-inspired fuges; one tune is even set with Polish words. It is an exciting time to be singing in this tradition!

A less lofty lesson reinforced by the day's singing was the value of redundancy. Although both Tom and I were recording the event, mine failed for the first session, and Tom's for the third. Fortunately, between the two of us, we produced a complete set of recordings, available at http://www.bostonsing.org/recordings/the-trumpet/.

Many thanks again to Tom Malone for organizing the day, to *Trumpet* editors Tom, Will Fitzgerald and Robert Vaughn for their dedication to producing Volume 1 so successfully, and especially to all the composers of the tunes, which gave us such enjoyment!

A photo of the singers can be found at http://singthetrumpet.com/singing-from-the-trumpet-volume-1/

# Memories of my Uncle, Paine Denson

Mike Hinton

Paine Denson was my uncle, as he and my Mother were "half brother and sister." Paine's mother was Amanda Burdette Denson and my grandmother, Lola Akers, married T J Denson after Amanda Burdette died. T J and Lola were married 23 years and had three daughters, Vera, Violet (my Mom) and Tommye (Anne Chalker and Richard Mauldin's Mom). Paine was in his late 30's when my Mother was born. So there was a considerable age difference between the two "sets" of T J Denson's children.

I remember seeing Uncle Paine a number of times when I was young. He died in 1955, age 73, when I was 12. We would see him every summer when we went to Jasper, Alabama to visit relatives. He was a tall, "pear shape" man. He was always dressed in a suit and tie, and when outside, he wore a hat. In the summer he liked to wear seersucker suits and a flat brim white hat. He had a loud voice and a hearty laugh. He practiced law in Birmingham and then moved to Double Springs and continued to practice law in a "relaxed" style. He had a good sense of humor and liked to tease folks. He took me to a store near his Birmingham office and bought a cowboy hat one summer. He said "every boy needed a cowboy hat." He was a typical "Southern gentleman" and graduated from the University of Alabama law school.

I remember the "Henry J" auto that he drove. It was brown and yellow, and it was the last car he owned. He was not a terribly good driver, but he was able to get to Jasper or Cullman from Double Springs and back home. He had heart trouble in his later years and would stay with Aunt Vera Nunn, who would take care of him, and Aunt Tommye Mauldin, an RN who would attend to his medical needs as directed by his physician. Aunt Vera use to tell us that Uncle Paine was not a very good patient and could be rather stubborn and would not want to take his meds or to do other things his doctor told him to do. When he was uncooperative, Aunt Vera would say "OK, I am going to call Tommye to come down here and talk to you." Uncle Paine would say, "Alright, I will do what is needed." He did not want Aunt Tommye to "clean his plow!"

Paine and his younger sister, Ruth Denson Edwards, had a very close relationship, and both worked daily to see that Sacred Harp music and tradition was preserved and perpetuated. They wrote letters to each other weekly. Uncle Paine had an old typewriter and he used it to prepare his letters and Aunt Ruth would send hers in her own neat and distinctive hand writing. I have a few letters that Uncle Paine wrote to Aunt Ruth. He would often tell her some story or something humorous. They frequently went to singings together, and often with their "double first cousin", Robert E. "Bob" Denson. He lived in Addison, not far from Double Springs. He and Paine would pick up Aunt Ruth in Cullman and go to a singing or a convention. They had fun and talked and sang while they rode together. Each of them knew what they would sing and would discuss the tunes they planned to sing and they sometimes practiced as they rode along. Hugh McGraw told me that none of the Densons ever used a book when leading. Uncle Paine wrote some wonderful Sacred Harp tunes (in my opin-

Uncle Paine wrote some wonderful Sacred Harp tunes (in my opinion.) Peace and Joy is my favorite tune in the 1991 Revision. I love the words and the way the tune emphasizes the words. The harmony is also something that I enjoy and the refrain too. *Peace* and *Joy* have calming and pleasant meanings to me, and I like to lead the tune at a moderate speed. I often say that I do not think we should rush peace or joy.

I have the Bible that belonged to my Aunt Ruth Denson Edwards. In that Bible are notes, letters, articles and a small piece of paper with numbers on it. A note on that piece of paper says: Paine's own selections for his funeral in his own hand. The numbers for tunes selected had "words only" written and the following numbers:

27, 457, 111, 68, 349, 329

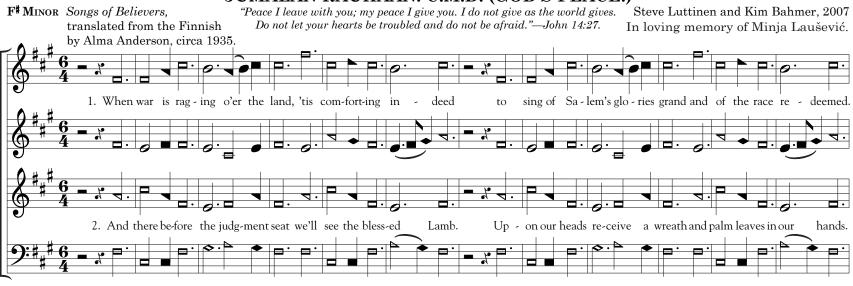
Uncle Paine died in 1955, so these would have been tunes in the 1936 Denson Revision. They remain the same tunes in the 1991 Revision as well. Two of these have top and bottom tunes. I suspect that he intended the top tune to be used since he did not indicate 111b, but that is speculation on my part.

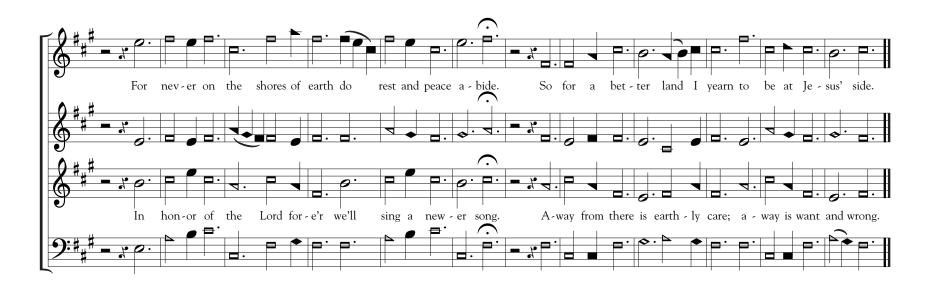
He was a lawyer, but his first love was Sacred Harp music. He was proud of his Sacred Harp heritage and worked to see that the music lived on and on.

### CLINTON. C.M.



### JUMALAN RAUHAAN. C.M.D. (GOD'S PEACE.)



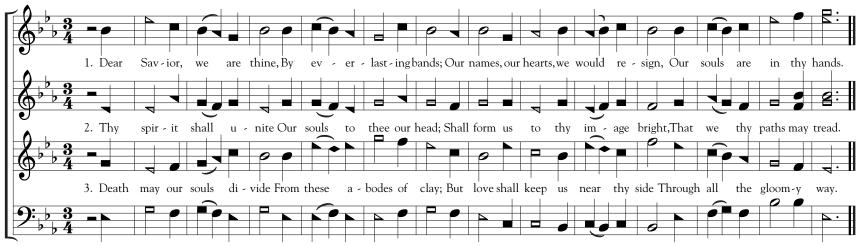


#### IVEY. S.M.

E Major Philip Doddridge. 1755, alt.

Dedicated to the memory of Marie Ivey

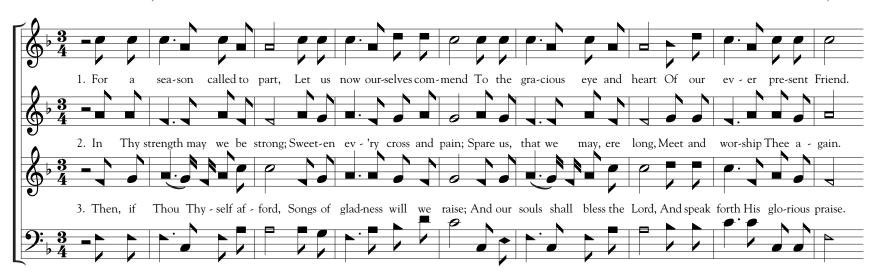
Wade Kotter, 2011.



4. Since Christ and we are one, What should re - main to fear? If he in Heav'n hath fixed his throne, He'll fix his peo-ple there.

#### JANE'S ENCOURAGEMENT. 8.7.8.7.D.



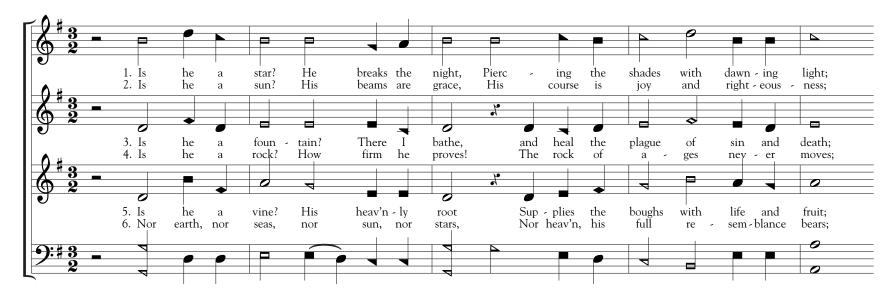


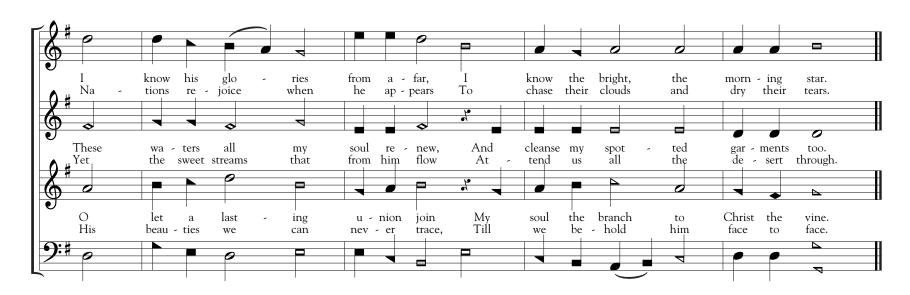


### MELANIE. L.M.

G Major Isaac Watts, 1707-09.

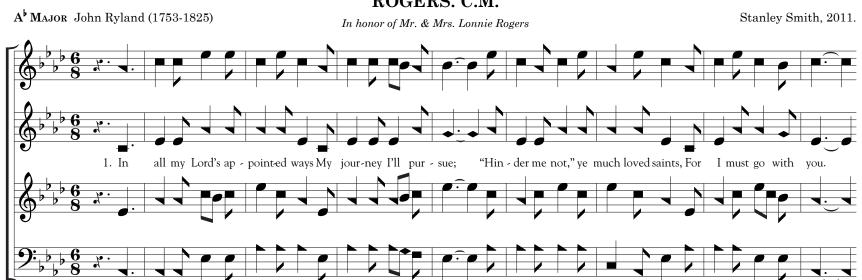
Anne Heider, 2009.

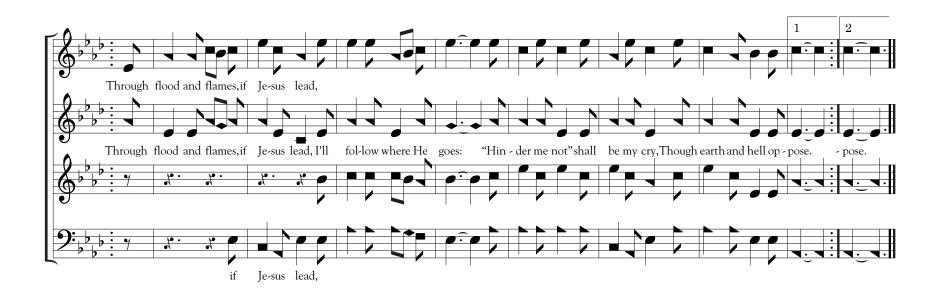






### ROGERS. C.M.





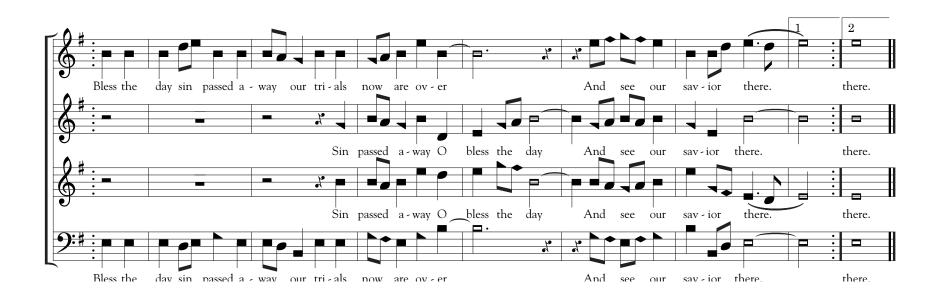
### CARTERSVILLE. C.M.

E MINOR Ed E. Thacker, 2010.

"I will remove the iniquity of that land in one day."—Zech. 3:9.

Ed E. Thacker, 2010.

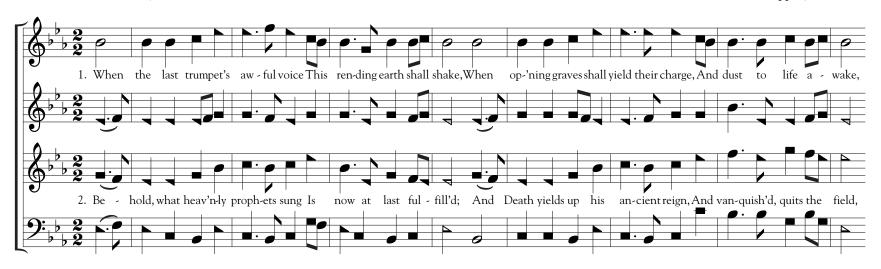


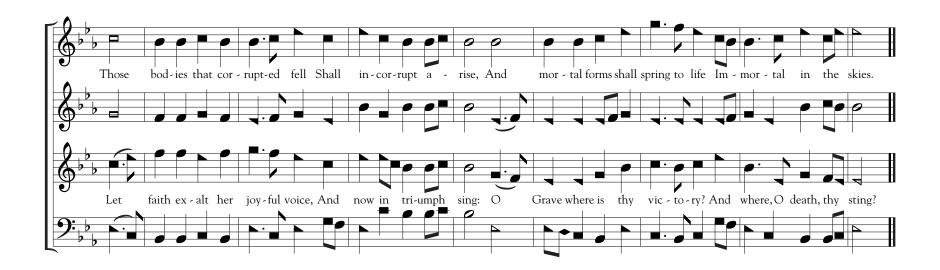


### EXULTATION. C.M.D.

E Major Isaac Watts, 1707.

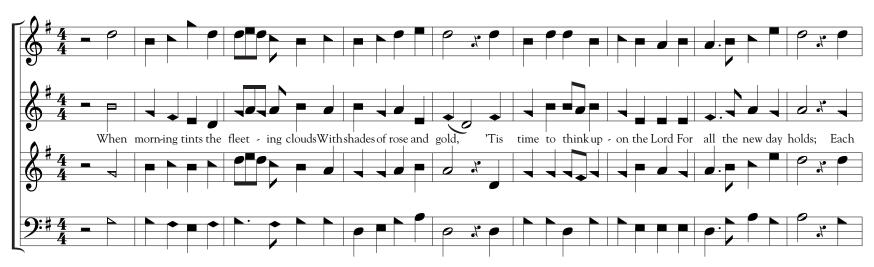
Nikos Pappas, rev. 2011.

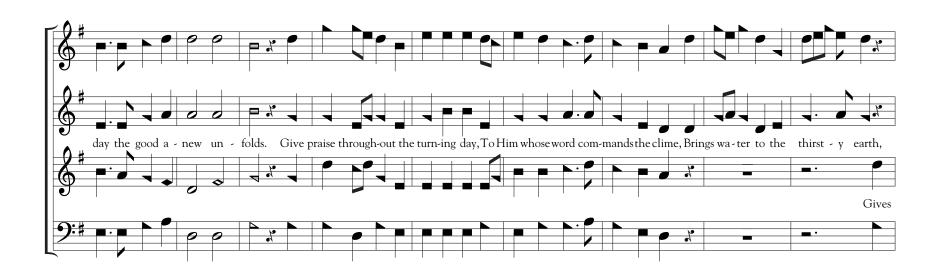


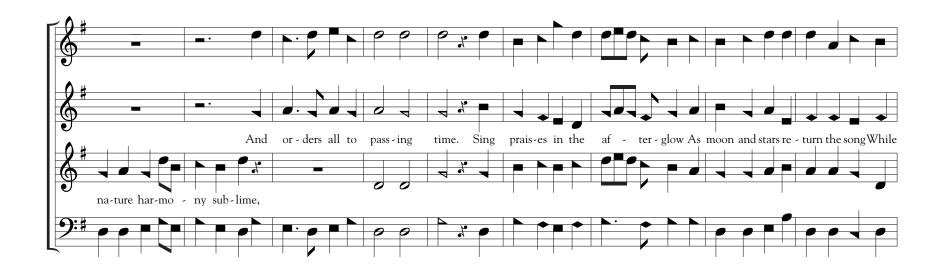


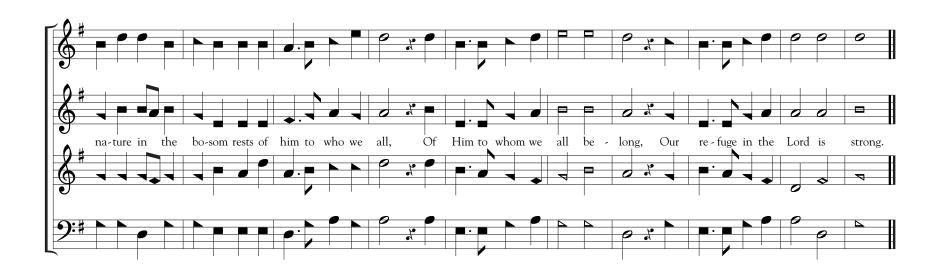
### CREST.

G Major Martha Sherwood, 2010. Steve Helwig, 2010.





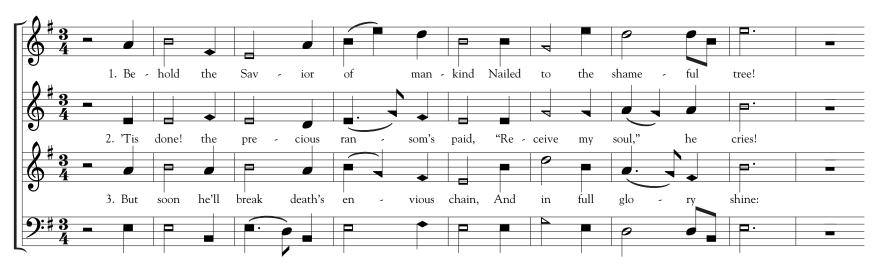


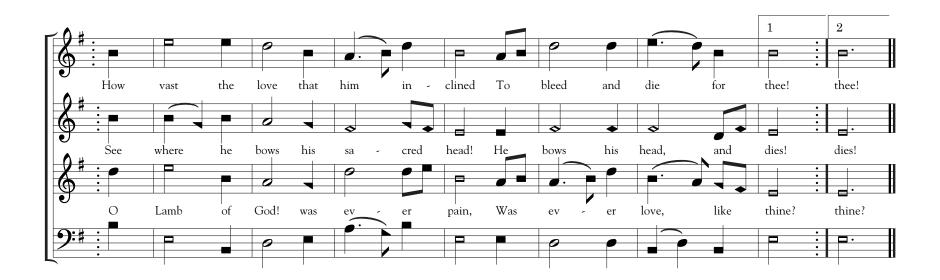


### ANGELS GATE. C.M.

E MINOR Samuel Wesley, Sr.

Dan Thoma, 2011.

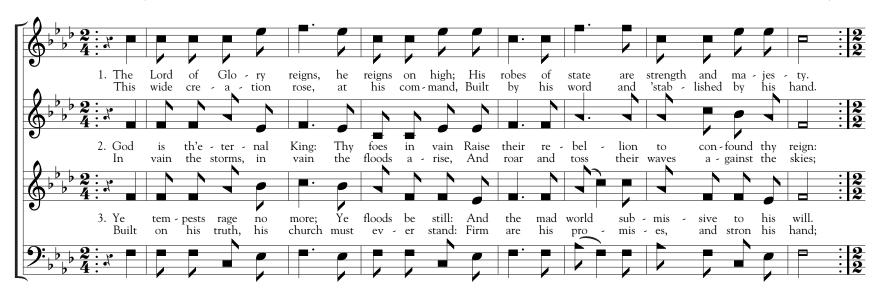


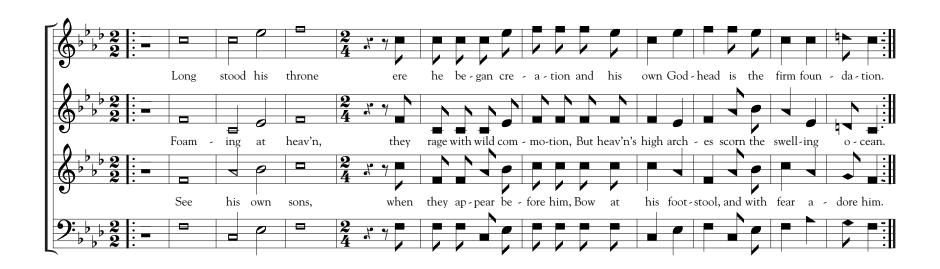


#### **REDDING. 10.11.10.11**

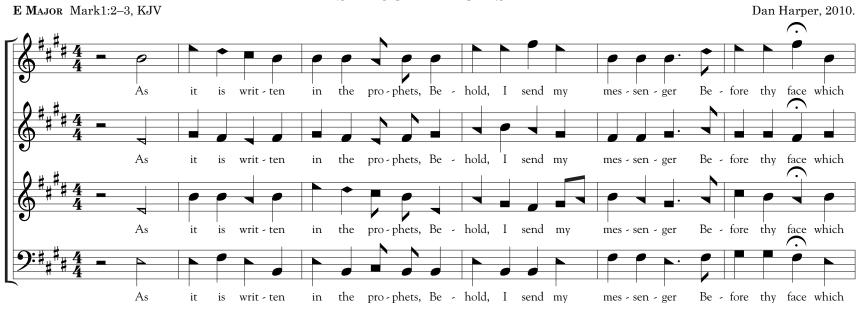
F MINOR Isaac Watts, 1719.

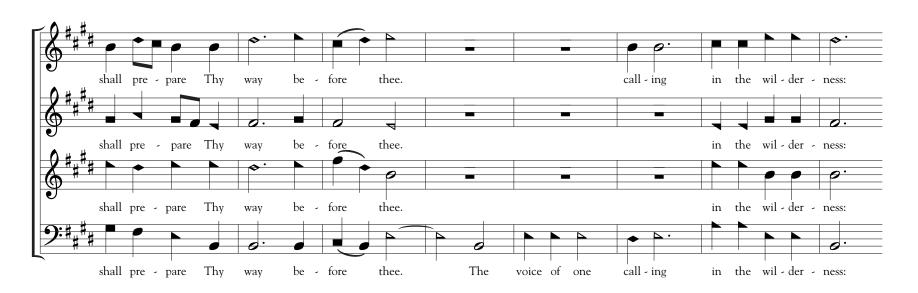
P. Dan Brittain, 1972.

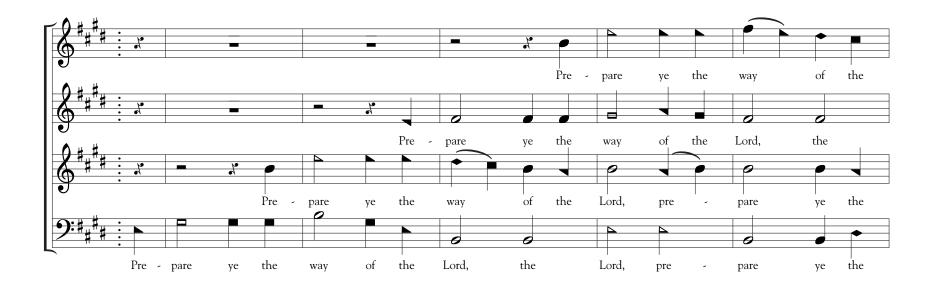


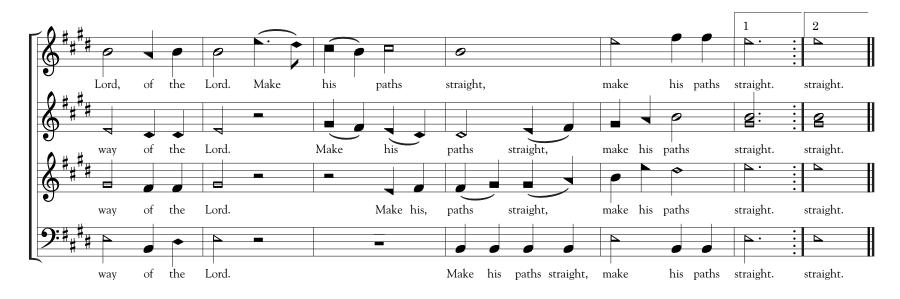


### SAN JUAN BAUTISTA



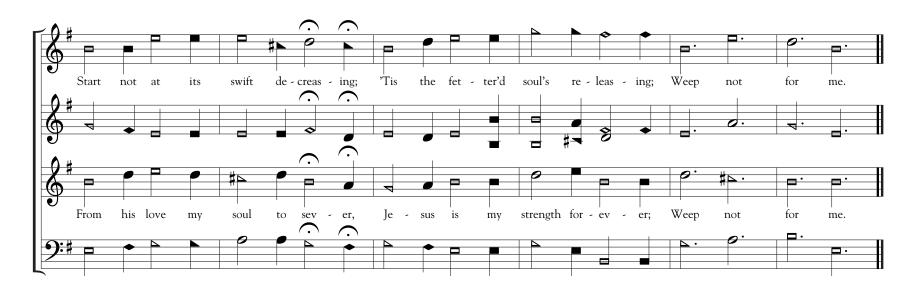






### WEEP NOT FOR ME. P.M.





# HANS. 8s & 7s.

A Major Isaac Watts, Songs for Children, 1715.

John Bayer, Jr., Sept. 21, 1994.

