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O For A Thousand Tongues To Sing

O for a thousand tongues to sing my great Redeemer's praise,
The glories of my God and King, the triumphs of His grace.

About the music. . .

Charles Wesley (brother of John Wesley, founder of the Methodist movement) wrote nearly *sixty-five-hundred* hymn-poems, including *Hark! The Herald Angels Sing.* He wrote the text of this majestic hymn in 1749. It was later set to music by Carl Glaser. *O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing* is considered above all others to be the "theme song" of the Methodist church.

Performance notes. . .

One of my favorite arranging ideas is to begin with just the melody, gradually adding harmony with each verse, until I have built to full chords.

Measure 1 begins with the melody in single notes, leading to two-part harmony at the pickup to measure 9. Full chords begin at measure 17, with a moving bass line at measure 25. I like to imagine a massive pipe organ playing this part.

At the pickup to measure 33, it's back to single string melody, and a touch of two-part harmony again at the pickup to measure 37.

I used a classical thumb and fingers technique (although I did wear a thumbpick!).

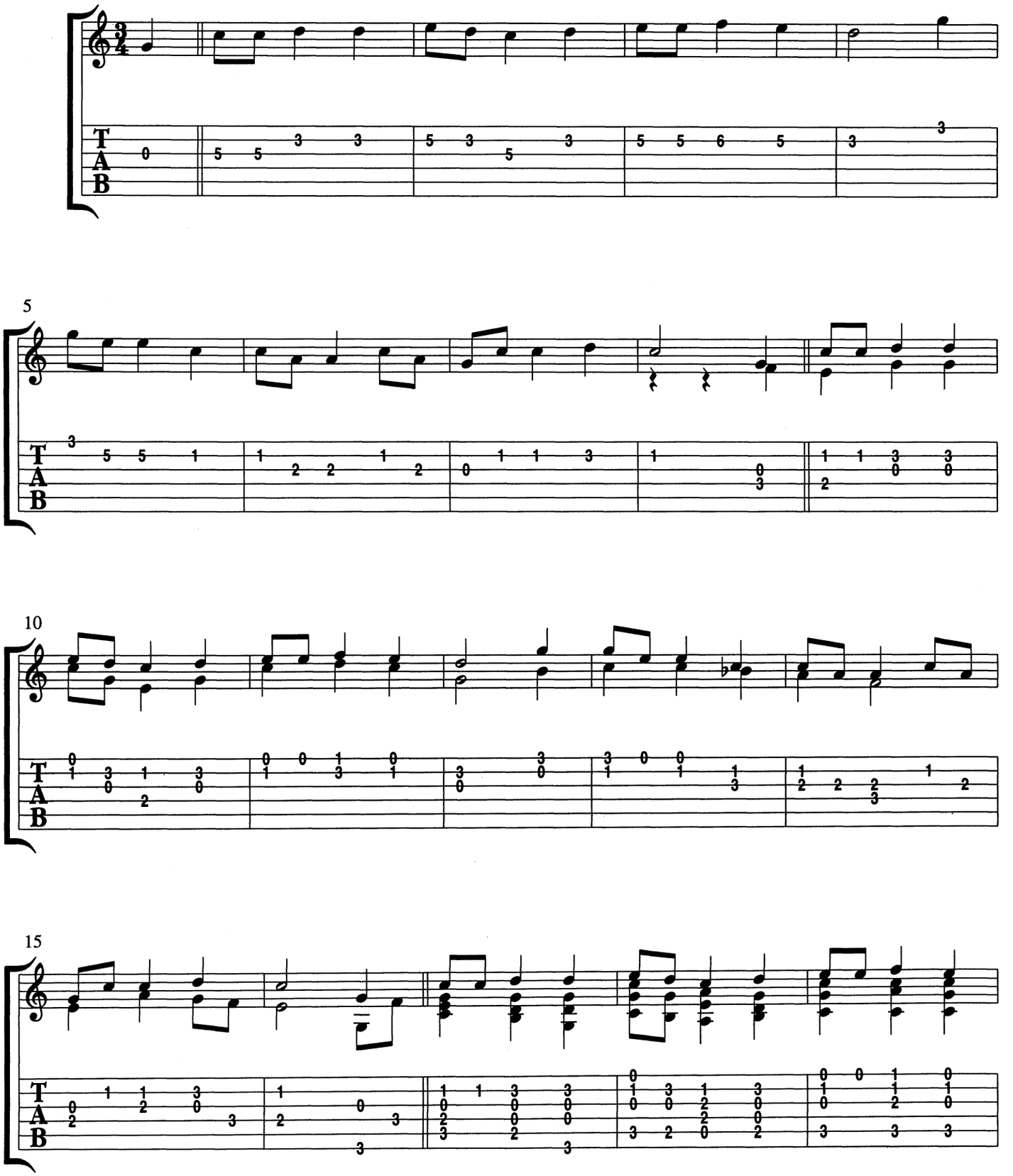
About the recording. . .

I used a deep-body, Kirk Sand nylon-string electric.

O For A Thousand Tongues To Sing

Words by Charles Wesley

Music by Carl Glaser
Arranged by Craig B. Dobbins



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