to Martha Shaak and the choirs of Palmyra (PA) Church of the Brethren

## PRAISE GOD WITH MUSIC!

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

Words by
DON BESIG and NANCY PRICE (ASCAP)

Music by DON BESIG (ASCAP)



<sup>\*</sup> Also available for S.A.B. voices, No. 11441.

<sup>\*\*</sup> Parts for trumpet and congregational singing may be found on pages 15 and 16. respectively. Part for 3-octave handbells is available separately, No. 7242.



























**Praise God with Music!** is a general anthem that is especially appropriate for choir dedication services. Suggested corresponding lectionary readings include Exodus 17: 1-7, Psalms 95 and 96, Matthew 16: 13-20, and Romans 11: 33-36. One basic homiletical theme is praising the Creator with the gift of music.

In rehearsal, strive for very fluid four-measure phrases. To improve ensemble precision and the sense of legato, practice singing m. 15-31 on "noo" pulsing constant eighth notes until a very smooth sound is achieved. Listen carefully for the naturally rising and falling contours, shaping the phrases dynamically and breathing precisely together. Add the text without sacrificing artful phrasing or ensemble precision. Particular attention should be given the moving eighth note passage found in m. 45-46 so that the eighth notes are precisely aligned and clearly heard. Practice this passage on staccato "doo" lightly but with great energy. Repeat the staccato exercise while singing the text. Finally, sing the passage legato without negating the energy and clarity of the staccato articulation.

This anthem may be performed with choir and keyboard alone or with the addition of three-octave handbells and/or solo trumpet. If handbells are not available, the keyboard should begin playing at measure 8. The newly-composed melody is very tuneful and hymnlike, making it ideal for congregational participation (see the part for congregational singing on page 16).

Nancy Price holds B.M. and M.M. degrees in music from Ithaca College. She began singing in elementary school choirs directed by Don Besig and in her senior year of college first worked with him as a lyricist. Since 1980 they have collaborated on over one hundred fifty compositions for school and church. Both Besig and Price have received several ASCAP Special awards.

Don Besig is Director of Music at Perinton Presbyterian Church in Fairport, New York. He has over thirty years of experience teaching vocal music in the public schools of western New York. Recognizing a need for choral music written especially for student singers, Besig began composing for his own choirs. Since 1973, over three hundred of his compositions and arrangements have been published.

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## PRAISE GOD WITH MUSIC!

Music by **TRUMPET** DON BESIG (ASCAP) With majesty ( J = ca. 104) 16 12 24 30 32 36 Broadly = ca. 92 - 96) 67

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## PRAISE GOD WITH MUSIC!

for congregational singing

Words by DON BESIG and NANCY PRICE (ASCAP)

Music by DON BESIG (ASCAP)

Verse 1: In joyful alleluias

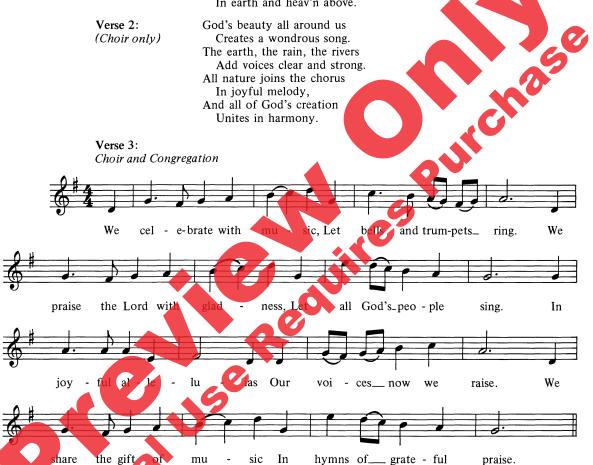
(Choir only) Our voices now we raise. We share the gift of music

In hymns of grateful praise. We join our hearts in singing

Of God's unfailing love. Our songs proclaim God's glory In earth and heav'n above.

Verse 2: (Choir only) God's beauty all around us Creates a wondrous song. The earth, the rain, the rivers Add voices clear and strong. All nature joins the chorus In joyful melody, And all of God's creation Unites in harmony.

Verse 3: Choir and Congregation



hoir only)

To God our hymns we raise. Amen. Amen.

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