in memory of Peg and Mil Davis

## **AMAZING GRACE/PACHELBEL'S CANON**

for 2-Part voices, accompanied,\* with optional descant

Verses 1-2 by JOHN NEWTON (1725-1807) Verse 3, ANONYMOUS TRADITIONAL FOLK HYMN

and CANON IN D

by JOHANN PACHELBEL (1653-1706)

Arranged by JEAN ANNE SHAFFERMAN

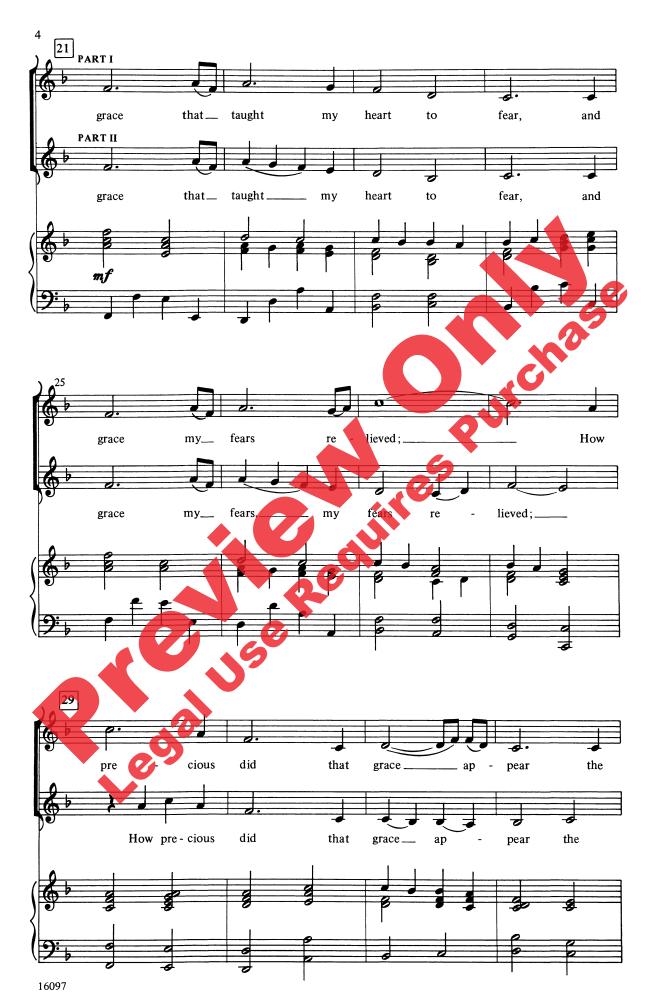


<sup>\*</sup> Also available for S.A.T.B. voices, No. 16095, and S.A.B. voices, No. 16096.

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Amazing Grace/Pachelbel's Canon is an anthem that beautifully weds the famous Canon in D by Johann Pachelbel with the beloved traditional folk hymn, Amazing Grace It is appropriate for performance by both church and school choirs.

In rehearsal, strive for a very legato sound enlivened by a strong sense of the underlying eighth-note pulse. Sing the melody in mm. 4-20 with all voices in unison on the neutral syllable "noo," pulsing eighth notes in precise alignment with the accompaniment. Add the text only after the underlying pulse is adequately internalized and the phrases are beautifully shaped.

In the middle verse (mm. 20-37), highlight the moving parts in the alto, mm. 22, 26, 29, 31 & 34-35. Similarly, in the final verse (mm. 44-62), clearly delineate the melody from the two contrapuntal "alleluia" voices. An excellent rehearsal technique for both verses is to sing them on staccato "doo" until the choir is keenly aware of all of the moving voices.

In the final verse, the stepwise descending descant "alleluia" is passed to the altos in mm. 57-60. To illustrate this motion to the singers, ask them to rehearse mm. 53-60 on "noo" except for the stepwise descending alleluias.

When performed in worship services, this anthem may be appropriate for Lent, All Saints', Eastertide or general occasions. Suggested corresponding lectionary readings include Psalm 27, Isaiah 41, 2 Corinthians 9: 6-15 Ephesians 1: 1-10 and Ephesians 2: 1-10. One basic homiletical theme is praising the God of grace who guides us through our darkest moments and promises eternal life to all the faithful.

Jean Anne Shafferman is Director of Church Choral Publications for Alfred Publishing Company. A graduate of the University of Kentucky with a B.M.E. in vocal music education and an M.A. in music theory, she is active as a church musician, clinician, and composer and has served as the Eastern Division Music in Worship Chairperson for the American Choral Directors' Association.