The Gospel of Grace is a joyous medley of two traditional spirituals, Amazing Grace and I'm New Born Again, that closes with a rousing finale partnering the two tunes. Arranged by Mark Hayes, it begins in slow gospel style, then changes mood, gradually accelerating and building momentum. With an optional orchestrated accompaniment, The Gospel of Grace is perfect for school choirs, as festival literature or a concert closer, and for church choirs throughout the year.

Amazing Grace is based upon an early American plantation melody that first appeared in published form in 1831 in a collection titled *The Virginia Harmony*. The text with which this tune has become famous was written by John Newton in 1779. Newton was an English slave ship captain who, after undergoing a religious transformation, became an Anglican clergyman. For the remainder of his long life, he was a powerful and influential advocate for the abolition of slavery.

Newton also collaborated with the English writer William Cowper on *The Olivy Hymus*, a remarkable collection of 349 "hymns of the folk" published in 1779 and including *Amazing Grace*. Newton based its six-verse text upon 1 Chronicles 17: 16-17. Today, *Amazing Grace* frequently appears with four of Newton's six verses and a final verse from anonymous sources: "When we've been there ten thousand years, bright shining as the sun, we've no less days to sing fod's praise than when we'd first begun."

Many spirituals may be traced to African-American southern camp meetings in the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries. One of the definitive collections of these early spirituals is *Folk Songs of the American Negro*, collected and arranged by the brothers John W. Work, Jr., and Frederick J. Work and published in 1907. *I'm New Born Again* is found in this collection, along with a host of other widely popular songs.

Mark Hayes is an award-winning concert pianist, composer and arranger of sacred choral, piano and orchestral music. With over 400 published works to his credit, Mark has also recorded numerous solo piano albums and has received the Gospel Music Association's prestigious Dove Award, which is equivalent to a Grammy in gospel music. A graduate of Baylor University, he has served as an adjunct professor of composition at Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Kansas City, Missouri.



THE GOSPEL OF GRACE

for S.A.T.B. voices, accompanied*



^{*} Also available for S.A.B. voices, No. 17899. A full performance/accompaniment cassette, No. 17900, and parts for piano, bass, drums, guitar, 2 Bb trumpets, tenor trombone, bass trombone, alto sax, tenor sax, baritone sax and director's score, No. 17901, are available separately.

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