



Jazzy Hymns and Spirituals

11 Arrangements of Traditional Favorites

Arranged by **Paul Johnston**

When asked to play at my church, I often enjoy experimenting with familiar hymns and spirituals. The arrangements in this collection began as an effort to contribute meaningful new music to our church services. With these selections, I have tried to keep the spirit of the original music while incorporating jazz harmonies and written-out “improvised” passages. I also explore different contemporary styles: a stride piano version of “Jesus Loves Me, This I Know,” a gospel-flavored “Oh Happy Day,” a jazzy “I’ve Got Peace Like a River,” and a funky “Wade in the Water.” These pieces range from the reflective to the celebratory, and I hope you enjoy playing them for your own pleasure and to share with others.

Paul Johnston

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ISBN-10: 1-4706-1457-X
ISBN-13: 978-1-4706-1457-7

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Stained glass church window in a reddish tone, square orientation © Shutterstock.com / Philip Meyer

I've Got Peace Like a River

Traditional
Arr. Paul Johnston

With movement (♩ = 104)

p

with pedal

5

10

mp

14

Faster, with swing (♩ = 144) (♩♩ = $\overset{3}{\text{♩}}$)

p *mf*

pedal ad lib.

Simple Gifts

Joseph Brackett, Jr.
Arr. Paul Johnston

Freely, with grace (♩ = ca. 112)

The first system of musical notation for 'Simple Gifts' is in 4/4 time with a key signature of one sharp (F#). It consists of two staves: a treble clef staff and a bass clef staff. The treble staff begins with a dynamic marking of *mp* and contains a melody with fingerings 2, 1, 2, 1, 3, 1, 4, 1, and 1. The bass staff contains a bass line with fingerings 2, 3, 1, 2, and 1. The instruction 'with pedal' is written below the bass staff. The system concludes with a dynamic marking of *p*.

The second system of musical notation begins with a measure number '5' in a box. It continues the piece in the same 4/4 time and key signature. The treble staff features a triplet of eighth notes with a '3' above it. The bass staff has rests in the first two measures, followed by chords in the third and fourth measures.

The third system of musical notation begins with a measure number '9' in a box. It continues the piece. The treble staff has a triplet of eighth notes with a '3' above it. The bass staff continues with a steady accompaniment of chords and single notes.

The fourth system of musical notation begins with a measure number '13' in a box. It continues the piece. The treble staff has a triplet of eighth notes with a '3' above it, followed by a group of five notes with a '5' above it. The bass staff continues with chords and single notes. The system concludes with a dynamic marking of *mp*.