We Praise Thee, O God is extracted from Handel’s “Utrecht Te Deum,” written to celebrate the Treaty of Utrecht that ended the War of the Spanish Succession in 1713. The admonition to praise God dominates the text in phrases such as “We praise Thee, O God,” “All the earth doth worship Thee,” “All the angels sing their endless praise,” and “Throughout all the earth the church gives praise.” Handel beautifully expresses this theme throughout with the captivating use of the joyful pattern of an eighth note followed by two sixteenth notes. After the opening homophonic section, Handel’s contrapuntal lines provide an exciting texture of voices that contrast with each other.

The anthem should be sung with energy, avoiding any heaviness. The contrasting dynamics in the various sections should be carefully executed. Above all, joy should pervade the vocal texture throughout.

Hal Hopson is the most prolific composer of church music of his generation. With more than 1,800 published works for 30 publishers, Mr. Hopson’s music is heard weekly in congregations throughout our country. His compositions reflect respect for the best liturgical traditions, scripture, and theology. Mr. Hopson composes music accessible to nearly all choirs and congregations, striving always to include rather than to exclude. His published repertoire includes almost every conceivable genre: anthems for children, youth, and adult choirs; and compositions for organ, piano, harpsichord, and handbells. Mr. Hopson writes especially for congregations in concertato anthems, hymn tunes, responsorial psalm settings, and liturgical services.

A church musician throughout his professional life, Mr. Hopson has also been conductor-clinician for workshops and choral festivals in the United States, Europe, and Asia, and professor of church music at Westminster Choir College and Scarritt Graduate School. He is also a hymn writer whose texts appear in major denominational hymnals.

Hal Hopson was born in Mound, Texas, in a family of thirteen children where music making figured prominently. His first piano teacher was his older sister, Merle, whom he holds in deep regard for her enormous musical and personal influences on his life. Hopson’s well-known hymn tune, “Merle’s Tune,” is named in her honor. He first accompanied worship services at age thirteen and later graduated from Baylor University and Southern Baptist Theological Seminary with B.A. and M.S.M. degrees, respectively. He completed additional study at universities and conservatories in the United States and Germany.

A recipient of many honors for his distinguished service to music, Mr. Hopson is listed in the International Who’s Who in Music, Cambridge, England. He has served on the national boards of Presbyterian Association of Musicians, Choristers Guild, and Church Music Institute, and has received annual awards from ASCAP for many consecutive years. Expertise in psalmody and liturgy led to appointments on the Symposium for Church Composers, sponsored by the Roman Catholic Diocese of Milwaukee, and the Task Force on Psalmody, sponsored by the Presbyterian Church, USA, resulting in the official Psalter for the denomination. Considered representative of this century’s choral music, Hopson’s cantata “God with Us” was chosen during the American Bicentennial, 1976, for placement in a capsule to be opened and performed at the Tercentennial in 2076. During the Bicentennial Celebration, it received a performance on National Public Radio. In the summer of 2013, Austin, Texas, became the home of Hopson and his wife, church musician Martha Smith Hopson. They have three children and six grandchildren, and enjoy living in the beautiful Texas hill country.
WE PRAISE THEE, O GOD
for S.A.T.B. voices, accompanied*

Traditional text alt.

Music by
GEORGE FREDERICK HANDEL (1685–1759)
Arranged by
HAL H. HOPSON (ASCAP)

With lively vigor \( \frac{j}{4} = \text{ca. 104-108} \)

We praise...

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*T To purchase a full-length performance recording (44239) of this piece, go to alfred.com/downloads.

THE CCLI LICENSE DOES NOT GRANT PERMISSION TO PHOTOCOPY THIS MUSIC.
Thee, O God.

We praise God.
Thee, O God.

We acknowledge

Thee, O God.

We acknowledge

Thee, O God.

We acknowledge
earth doth worship Thee.

O Lord, all the

earth doth worship Thee, O Lord.

All the earth, O Lord, all the

earth doth worship Thee, O Lord.

All the earth

O Lord, all the earth

Dotted slur means no breath.
worship Thee, O Lord.

worship Thee, O Lord. All the angels

worship Thee, O Lord.

worship Thee, O Lord.

worship Thee, O Lord.

worship Thee, O Lord. All the angels

All the angels sing their endless praise.

All the angels sing their endless
sing their endless praise. Throughout all

Throughout all the earth, throughout all

praise. Throughout all


the earth the church gives praise. Bring us

the earth the church gives praise.
Bring us with the saints, cresc.

Bring us with the saints.

Bring us with the saints to live for the saints for the saints for.