

THE FIRST SONG OF ISAIAH

Composed for and dedicated to the "CALABAMAHAMIANS," young musical delegates from California, Nevada, Alabama and Nassau in the Bahamas - in conference at Beckwith Lodge near Mobile, Alabama.

PERFORMANCE NOTES

"The First Song of Isaiah" is one of three canticles taken from the Book of Isaiah. It offers a text of broad usefulness, yet significant meaning. Though of obvious use in any general service, in special services it would find itself applicable from weddings to funerals, from the Easter Season to Christmas. It has, in fact, been used as a prelude to Christmas Eve, recognizing the prophecy of Isaiah and offering an Old Testament background to the Nativity theme.

This musical setting of "The First Song of Isaiah" has been designed to be extremely flexible and can range from the simplest presentation to an extravaganza. It can be performed in unison, all singing the top line throughout, with a simple keyboard and/or guitar accompaniment. If the congregation participates and there is a choir, the congregation may sing only on the refrains as indicated in the "people's part." The choir then sings the verses either in unison or in parts as written. If it is done in unison, a few sopranos may sing only the choir soprano parts as a descant. Ideally, it is most effectively done as written: unison congregation on refrains, SATB choir throughout except for the unison beginning which familiarizes the refrain to the congregation. A large choir may want to designate a few in each section to sing the unison part to support the congregation, or a youth choir may be used for that purpose, the senior choir singing parts.

A complete accompaniment is provided: keyboard, guitar, drums, bass guitar, and optional handbells. In one performance, full orchestra was added; in others, only a lone guitar sufficed. The keyboard part, as written, stylistically calls for piano but can be performed on organ. If done by organ alone, the sixteenth note figure in the accompaniment should be performed articulately and the basic rhythm of the bass part retained by repeating the notes rather than sustaining them. If both organ and piano are used, the organ may play sustained chords with the piano setting the rhythmic patterns. In that case, the organist may choose to duplicate the voice parts in some passages for variety.

The suggested part for movement choir is available separately (50¢). It uses candle lanterns made from styrofoam cups, adding another complete dimension to the execution of this piece, and offering an opportunity to involve others who do not normally participate in their church's music program. The candle routine is an excellent project for a youth group.

Regardless of how extravagantly or how simply done, "The First Song of Isaiah" should present a calmly joyful message. Thanks are due to: the Rev. Canon Charles Mortimer Guilbert, whose poetic hand can clearly be seen in the adapting of the canticle from the Scriptures; to Margaret More, who conceived and first executed the movement choir part; and to Dean Edgar G. Parrott and the ninety young people from California, Nevada, Alabama and the Bahamas who made up the musical community for which the setting was written.

Jack Noble White
Mobile - January 13, 1976

THE FIRST SONG OF ISAIAH

Ecce, Deus

ISAIAH 12: 2-6*

JACK NOBLE WHITE

Slow (♩ = 60)

Keyboard

C F Csus 2 F C F Csus 2 F

Unison Voices

Sure-ly, it is God who saves me; I will trust in him and not be a -

C G/B Am C7/G F Dm7

fraid. For the Lord is my strong-hold and my sure de-fense, and

Gsus 4 G7/F Em7 Am C7/G F G7/F Em7 Amsus 4

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Handbells

he will be my Sav - ior.

Soprano

Alto Ah

Tenor

Bass

Dm7 Gsus 4 C F/C Csus 2 F

Bass Guitar

Light Drums

S. Sure-ly, it is God who saves me; I will trust in him and not be a -

A. Sure-ly it is God who saves me; I will trust in him and not be a -

T. Sure-ly it is God who saves me; I will trust in him and not be a -

B. Sure-ly it is God who saves me; I will trust in him and not be a -

C G/B Am C7/G F Dm7

fraid. For the Lord is my strong-hold and my sure de-fense, and

fraid. For the Lord is my strong-hold and my sure de - fense, and

Gsus 4 G7/F Em7 Am C7/G F G7/F Em7 Amsus 4

Handbells

he will be my Sav - ior. There -

he will be my Sav ior. Ah

Dm7 Gsus 4 C F/C Csus 2 F/C

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fore you shall draw wa-ter with re - joic - ing from the springs of sal -

Ah ah

C G7/B Am C7/G F Dm7

This system contains the first two systems of music. The first system has a vocal line with lyrics 'fore you shall draw wa-ter with re - joic - ing from the springs of sal -' and a piano accompaniment. The second system has a vocal line with 'Ah ah' and a piano accompaniment. The guitar chords are listed below the piano accompaniment: C, G7/B, Am, C7/G, F, Dm7.

va - tion. And on that day you shall say, Give thanks to the Lord, and

ah, and

Gsus 4 G7/F Em7 Am C7/G F G7/F Em7 Amsus 4

This system contains the third and fourth systems of music. The third system has a vocal line with lyrics 'va - tion. And on that day you shall say, Give thanks to the Lord, and' and a piano accompaniment. The fourth system has a vocal line with 'ah, and' and a piano accompaniment. The guitar chords are listed below the piano accompaniment: Gsus 4, G7/F, Em7, Am, C7/G, F, G7/F, Em7, Amsus 4.

Handbells

call up - on his Name;

call up - on his Name; ah ah

This section contains three staves of music. The top staff is for Handbells, with notes corresponding to the lyrics 'call up - on his Name;'. The middle staff is a vocal line with lyrics 'call up - on his Name; ah ah'. The bottom staff is a piano accompaniment with chords and a bass line.

Dm7 Gsus 4 C F Csus 2 F

This system shows the piano accompaniment for the first system, including the right and left hand parts. Chord labels are placed above the right-hand staff: Dm7, Gsus 4, C, F, Csus 2, and F.

Sure-ly, it is God who saves me I will trust in him and not be a -

Sure-ly it is God who saves me; I will trust in him and not be a -

This section contains three staves of music. The top staff is a vocal line with lyrics 'Sure-ly, it is God who saves me I will trust in him and not be a -'. The middle staff is a piano accompaniment with chords and a bass line. The bottom staff is a piano accompaniment with chords and a bass line.

C G/B Am C7/G F Dm7

This system shows the piano accompaniment for the second system, including the right and left hand parts. Chord labels are placed above the right-hand staff: C, G/B, Am, C7/G, F, and Dm7.

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fraid. For the Lord is my strong-hold and my sure de-fense, and

fraid. For the Lord is my strong-hold and my sure de - fense, and

Gaus 4 G7/F Em7 Am C7/G F G7/F Em7 Ausus 4

he will be my Sav - ior.

he will be my Sav - ior. Ah

Dm7 Caus 1 C F/C Caus 2



(may be sung by choir alone)

Make his deeds known a-mong the peo-ples; See that they re-mem-ber that his
 Unison
 Make his deeds known a-mong the peo-ples; See that they re-mem-ber that his

Am Em F G7

Name is ex - alt - ed_ Sing the prais-es of the Lord, for he has done great things, and this is_ Div.
 Name is ex - alt - ed_ Sing the prais-es of the Lord, for he has done great things, Ah _____

C Dm7 C/E Am Em/G F D7 G Dm7/G



known in all the world. Sure-ly it is God who saves me; I will

Sure-ly it is God who saves me; I will

Em/G G7 C G/B Am C7/G

This system contains the first two systems of a musical score. The top system features two vocal staves with lyrics: "known in all the world. Sure-ly it is God who saves me; I will" and "Sure-ly it is God who saves me; I will". Below the vocal staves is a piano accompaniment consisting of a grand staff (treble and bass clefs) and a separate bass line. Chord symbols are placed above the piano accompaniment: Em/G, G7, C, G/B, Am, and C7/G. A large red watermark is overlaid diagonally across the page.

trust in him and not be a - fraid. For the Lord is my strong-hold and my

trust in him and not be a - fraid For the Lord is my strong-hold and my

F Dm7 G7sus 4 G7/F Em7 Am

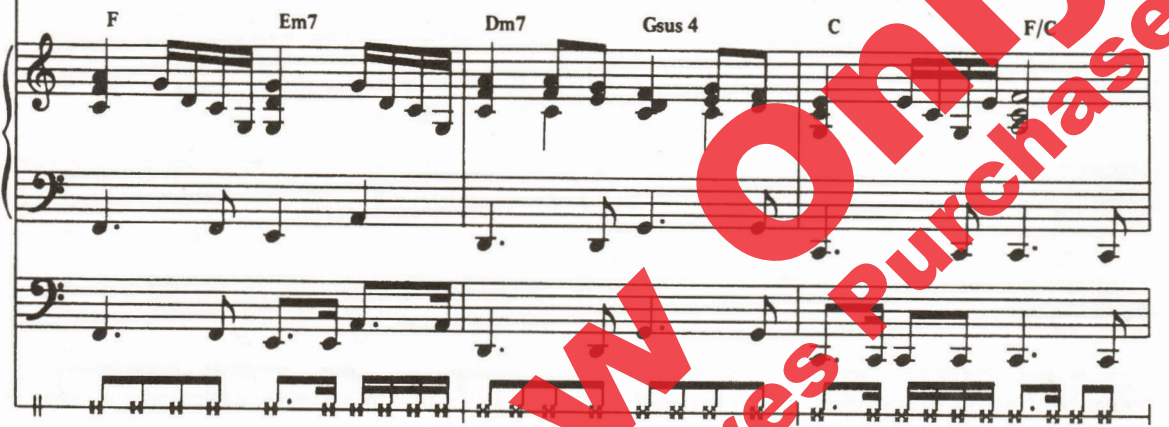
This system contains the second two systems of a musical score. The top system features two vocal staves with lyrics: "trust in him and not be a - fraid. For the Lord is my strong-hold and my" and "trust in him and not be a - fraid For the Lord is my strong-hold and my". Below the vocal staves is a piano accompaniment consisting of a grand staff (treble and bass clefs) and a separate bass line. Chord symbols are placed above the piano accompaniment: F, Dm7, G7sus 4, G7/F, Em7, and Am. A large red watermark is overlaid diagonally across the page.

sure de - fense, and he will be my Sav - ior.

sure de - fense, and he will be my Sav - ior. Ah



F Em7 Dm7 Gsus 4 C F/C



Cry a - loud, in hab - i - tants of Zi - on,



Gsus 2 F/C C G/B Am C7/G



Ring out your joy, for the great one in the

ah

F Dm7 Gsus 4 G7 Em Am C7

This system contains the first two lines of the musical score. The top line is a vocal melody in treble clef with lyrics. The second line is a piano accompaniment in treble clef. The third line is a piano accompaniment in bass clef. The fourth line shows guitar chords: F, Dm7, Gsus 4, G7, Em, Am, and C7. The bottom two lines are a bass line in bass clef and a drum line with a steady eighth-note pattern.

midst of you is the Ho - ly One of Is - rael.

Ho - ly One of Is - rael. Ah

F C/E Dm7 G7sus 4 C F/C C F/C

This system contains the second two lines of the musical score. The top line is a vocal melody in treble clef with lyrics. The second line is a piano accompaniment in treble clef. The third line is a piano accompaniment in bass clef. The fourth line shows guitar chords: F, C/E, Dm7, G7sus 4, C, F/C, C, and F/C. The bottom two lines are a bass line in bass clef and a drum line with a steady eighth-note pattern.

Sure-ly, it is God who saves me; I will trust in him and not be a -

Sure-ly, it is God who saves me; I will trust in him and not be a -

C Em/B Am C7/G F Dm7

fraid. For the Lord is my strong-hold and my sure de - fense, and

fraid. For the Lord is my strong-hold and my sure de - fense, and

Gsus 4 C7 Em7 Am C7 F Em7



he will be my Sav - ior.

he will be my Sav - ior. Ah

Dm7 Gsus 4 C F C F

This system contains the first two vocal lines and the piano accompaniment. The vocal lines are in treble clef, and the piano accompaniment is in bass clef. The lyrics are "he will be my Sav - ior." and "he will be my Sav - ior. Ah". The piano accompaniment includes a bass line and a right-hand line with chords labeled Dm7, Gsus 4, C, F, C, and F.

Sure-ly it is God who saves me; I will trust in him and not be a -

Sure-ly it is God who saves me; I will trust in him and not be a -

C Am C7/G F Dm7

This system contains the second two vocal lines and the piano accompaniment. The vocal lines are in treble clef, and the piano accompaniment is in bass clef. The lyrics are "Sure-ly it is God who saves me; I will trust in him and not be a -" and "Sure-ly it is God who saves me; I will trust in him and not be a -". The piano accompaniment includes a bass line and a right-hand line with chords labeled C, Am, C7/G, F, and Dm7.

fraid. For the Lord is my strong-hold and my sure de- fense, and

fraid. For the Lord is my strong-hold and my sure de - fense, and

Gsus 4 G7/F Em7 Am C7/G F G7/F Em7 Amsus 4

he will be my Sav- ior.

he will be my Sav- ior. Ah

Dm7 Gsus C F/C Csus 2 F/C C

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THE FIRST SONG OF ISAIAH

Ecce, Deus

The congregation is asked to join the choir singing this refrain after each verse is sung:

ISAIAH 12: 2-6*

JACK NOBLE WHITE

Slow



Sure-ly, it is God who saves me; I will trust in him and not be a fraid. For the



Lord is my strong-hold and my sure de-fense, and he will be my Sav - ior.

VERSE

Therefore you shall draw water with rejoicing
from the springs of salvation,
And on that day you shall say,
Give thanks to the Lord and call upon his Name;

REFRAIN

VERSE

Make his deeds known among the peoples,
see that they remember that his Name is exalted.
Sing the praises of the Lord, for he has done great things,
and this is known in all the world.

REFRAIN

VERSE

Cry aloud, inhabitants of Zion,
sing out your joy,
For the great one in the midst of you
is the Holy One of Israel.

REFRAIN (sing twice)

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