FOREWORD

Very little is known about Edward L. White. This example of his compositional skill will, perhaps, stimulate further searching for information and music of this native American composer of the early nineteenth century. Nathanial Gould, historian, gives us this information about him in his Church Music in America, written shortly after White's death.

E.L. White acquired considerable celebrity, both as a teacher and author. He closed his labors on earth, in Boston, 1851. White was a native of Newburyport, Mass.; a man of more than ordinary musical talents; commenced teaching in New Bedford; then in Boston, where his labors were incessant as a teacher, writer, and publisher of music, sacred and secular. He was cut down in the midst of life and usefulness, and the hands that used to move the keys of the organ and piano so gracefully are stilled and mouldering in the grave. 1

White is the last of several outstanding figures whom Gould discusses, including such notables as Billings, Holden, Law, Holyoke, Kimball, Read, French, Swan, and Shaw, all of whom he calls "prominent members of the musical world," leading us to believe that White was a major figure in his day.

Note values are halved. Dynamics in brackets are editorial suggestions. Alto parts were originally designated as "2nd Soprano." The order of staves was T. A. S. B.

The order of staves was T, A, S, B.

The keyboard part is editorial, prepared with organ in mind.
Figures have been omitted and simple suggestions for achieving antiphonal effects have been made. Though White calls the two groups simply First Chorus and Second Chorus, a semi-chorus works well for the second chorus in performance. That accompaniment was encouraged cannot be doubted, for small notes are indicated to assist the key-boardist play First Chorus parts when the Second Chorus is silent, these appearing in the bottom two staves of the Second Chorus. But performing experience shows that a cappella performance is perfectly satisfying. The use of some instruments doubling the voices would be in the spirit of the practice of gallery orchestras at that time, should the conductor desire to use them. Distance between the two choruses enhances the charm of the piece--the use of a balcony at the back of the church or hall for the Second Chorus being especially effective.

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1 Boston, A.N. Johnson, 1853,p.68

GLORY IN THE HIGHEST, GLORY [1848]

For Double Chorus of Mixed Voices with Optional Keyboard Accompaniment



Source: White's Church Melodist, Boston: Phillips, Sampson and Co., 1850. Duration: 2.45.

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