

ALLELUIA

ON A THEME BY WILLIAM BILLINGS

Arranged by RUSSELL ROBINSON

This hymn tune was written by William Billings (1746–1800), one of America's first choral composers. (Note: he was thirty when the Declaration of Independence was signed!) This was first published in a collection of hymn tunes called the *New England Psalm Singer* in 1770 in Boston. Since the tune is a round, it could be sung in many combinations of voices.

The new text on "Alleluia" allows for ease of singing and can be used in a variety of choral settings (not only as a concert piece, but also as an effective opening piece as singers enter the stage from the back of the hall). Singers are encouraged to sing with an unforced sound, letting the jaw drop on the "aw" vowel. The "Al-le-lu-ia" would then be sung "Aw-lehw-loo-yaw." Also, try to ensure that the third syllable (loo) is gently emphasized each time "Alleluia" is sung. The key has been dropped one full step from the original E minor for ease of singing and improved a cappella intonation.

Try to let the music come through naturally without oversinging. Take nice deep breaths before each entrance, and let the sounds float and surround you as you sing it.

For further ideas on warm-ups, vowel formation and rehearsal techniques, see *Creative Rehearsal Techniques in Today's Choral Classroom* (SVB9911).

Other "classic" arrangements by Russell Robinson:

GLORIA IN EXCELSIS DEO (SV9914) SAB

GLORIA IN EXCELSIS DEO (SV9915) Two-Part

PSALLITE (SV9907) SAB, a cappella

PSALLITE (SV9908) SSA, a cappella

KYRIE (SV9905) SAB

KYRIE (SV9909) Two-Part

ALLELUIA

On a Theme by William Billings

SAB, a cappella

Music by WILLIAM BILLINGS
(1746 - 1800)
Arranged by RUSSELL ROBINSON

With sensitivity $\text{♩} = 110$

SOPRANO *p*
Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu -

ALTO *p*
Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu -

BASS *p* (p)
Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu -

PIANO
(for rehearsal only) *p*
(p)

4
ia, Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia, Al -

ia, Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia, Al -

(p) (p) (p) (p) (p) (p) (p)
ia, Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia, Al -

4
(p) (p) (p) (p) (p) (p) (p)
(p) (p) (p) (p) (p) (p) (p)

9

le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu -

le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu -

le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu -

9

14

ia, Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia, Al -

ia, Al - le lu - ia.

ia, Al - le - lu - ia.

14

19

le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu -

mf

Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu -

19

24

ia, Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia, Al -

ia, Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia, Al -

mf

Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia, Al -

24

29

le - lu - ia, — Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu -

le - lu - ia, — Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu -

(2) (2) (2) (2) (2) (2) ,

le - lu - ia, — Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu -

29

34

ia, — Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia, — Al -

ia, — Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia, — Al -

ia, — Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia, — Al -

34

39

le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu -

le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu -

le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu -

39

44

ia, Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia. Al -

ia, Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia. Al -

ia, Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia. Al -

44

49

le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia.

le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia, Al -

mp

49

mp

55

le lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia, Al -

p *mp*

55

p *mp*

61 *mf*

Al - le - lu -

le - lu - ia, — Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu -

le - lu - ia, — Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu -

61 *mf*

66

ia, — Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia, — Al -

ia, — Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia, — Al -

ia, — Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia, — Al -

66

71

f

le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu -

f

le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu -

f

le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu -

71

f

le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu -

76

rit.

ia, Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia!

rit.

ia, Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia!

rit.

ia, Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia!

76

rit.

ia, Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia!

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