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COMPOSER'S NOTE

This collection of songs is aimed at SATB choirs, whether primarily gospel singers or not. All the songs are of moderate difficulty, with some divisi (mostly in sopranos and altos, occasionally in basses and very rarely in tenors).

All tempo indications are approximate, and may vary according to such factors as the ability of the choir and the acoustic in which the songs are performed.

Chord symbols are included so that, if desired, traditional gospel rhythm sections (guitar, bass, drums) can be added to the ensemble.

In writing original lyrics I have tried to maintain the true gospel spirit of an innocent, impulsive faith and optimism. Many of the songs are votive and all of them are designed to be inspirational!

My aim is to bring the joy, energy and enthusiasm of the gospel style to traditional choirs who might not usually sing this kind of material, whilst at the same time creating some new and, hopefully, interesting and rewarding songs for established gospel choirs.

PERFORMANCE NOTE

I have included texts that may be used as readings to create a complete performance work of all eight songs plus readings, lasting approximately 35 minutes. Alternatively you may wish to use your own readings, or have none at all.

Although intended to be performed as a set, each song stands alone. So, whether you programme the entire collection with readings, or if you prefer to select one or two of the songs as part of a mixed programme, I hope you will find something joyous and rewarding in this music.

*Mike Sheppard
Beaconsfield, England, November 2015*

Dedicated to the memory of Jeremy Suter (1990–2014). Your brief life was a light in the darkness; you touched more people than you knew; you are much loved and sorely missed. The feelings of joy, energy and enthusiasm you gave to the world provide the inspiration for this music.

1. CHILDREN OF GOD

Words and music
by Mike Sheppard

Celebratory

♩ = c. 64

SOPRANO *f* His name is Je - sus, Je - sus His name is Je - sus,

ALTO *f* His name is Je - sus, Je - sus,

TENOR *f* Je - sus, Je - sus,

BASS *f* Je - sus,

Piano *f* Eb Cm

5 *ff* *mp* *poco rall.*

S. He came to die for us, that we might all, all be

A. *ff* *mp* Die for us, Might all be

T. *ff* *mp* Die for us, Might all be

B. *ff* *mp* Die for us, Might all be

Pno. Cm/Bb Ab(#11add9) Ab Eb/Bb Ebmaj7/Bb Bb7(sus4)

A tempo ♩ = c. 64

9 *f* His name_ is Je - sus, saved, His name_ is Je - sus, His name is Je - sus,

A. saved, His name_ is Je - sus, Je - sus.

T. saved, Je - sus, Je - sus.

B. saved, Je - sus, Je - sus.

Pno. *f* Bb^9 Eb Eb/D Cm

13 *ff* He came to tes - ti - fy, *mf* That we might all be *poco rall.*

A. *ff* came to tes - ti - fy, *mf* That we might

T. *ff* came to tes - ti - fy, *mf* That we might

B. *ff* came to tes - ti - fy, *mf* All be

Pno. *ff* *mf* Cm^9/Bb Ab^{maj7} Gm^7 Fm^6 $Ab(\#11add^9)$ Ab Ab Bb^7/Ab Fm Cm^7/Bb Bb^9 Cm^{11}/Bb

2. THE LORD IS HIS NAME

Words adapted from Exodus 15

Lively ♩ = c. 102

mf

SOPRANO

ALTO

TENOR

BASS

Piano

mf

D D/F# A(sus4) D D/F# A9(sus4)

5

S. sing to the Lord, for He has tri-umphed glo-rious - ly, The

mf

A. Sing to the Lord who has tri-umphed glo-rious - ly, The

mf

T. Sing to the Lord who has tri-umphed glo-rious - ly, The

mf

B. Sing to the Lord who has tri-umphed glo-rious - ly, The

D Bm7 Bm7/A Em/G F#m/A A9 D A/C#

Pno.

8. GLORY, GLORY!

Words and music
by Mike Sheppard

Celebratory ♩ = c. 104

DESCANT GROUP

SOPRANO

ALTO

TENOR

BASS

Piano

S.

A.

T.

B.

Pno.

5

too ma - ny peo - ple, like fish in the sea, *mf*

They

too ma - ny peo - ple, like fish in the sea, *mf*

They

G G/D Em7 G⁶/B C^(add9) D⁹ D⁹

Performance note:

The descant groups should consist of male and female voices. The primary consideration should be to select voices that are strong in the E-E register of the 'Amazing Grace' counter-melody, especially on the last, held A.