

RWS DEVELOPING STRINGS SERIES

CONDUCTOR SCORE  
Catalog No: RWS-2384-01

# A Mother's Hymn (How Great Thou Art)

Arranged by  
Robert W. Smith



DEVELOPING STRINGS SERIES

RWS MUSIC  
COMPANY

# A Mother's Hymn

## (How Great Thou Art)

Arranged by  
**Robert W. Smith**

Edited by Douglas Droste

### INSTRUMENTATION

Conductor Score .....	1
Violin 1 .....	15
Violin 2 .....	15
Viola .....	6
Cello .....	5
Double Bass .....	5
Piano (Optional) .....	1
Percussion: Chimes (Optional) .....	1

### PROGRAM NOTE

Simple, poignant and beautiful, **A Mother's Hymn** is based on an old Swedish melody also known as *How Great Thou Art*. Composer Robert W. Smith writes, "As I was growing up in the deep south of the United States, I was greatly impacted by my mother and grandmother and their love of hymns. This melody was my mother's favorite and I performed it regularly both at home and in the church. I cherish the memories of playing this beautiful hymn on trumpet accompanied by my grandmother on the organ or piano. I particularly enjoyed the interpretive freedom my grandmother gave me during the performance while she followed me with each nuanced phrase. I created this setting in honor of my mother Grazia W. Smith and mothers everywhere."

### NOTES TO CONDUCTOR

I urge you to explore this setting through multiple interpretations with phrasing as the focus. I have used tempo alterations as well as metered stretched phrases to create musical moments that allow both conductor and musician expressive freedom.

Please balance and blend carefully to maximize the contrast and musical effect of the arrangement. Feel free to adjust the notated dynamic markings as needed. For example, the violas and cello should be present in the moving line beginning at measure 21. Please adjust the notated mezzo piano as needed to ensure the appropriate balance.

The three-beat crescendo leading into measure 42 should be very prominent allowing for a true and artistic forte in the full orchestra statement. Please note the dynamic shaping that follows leading to the fortissimo release in measure 45.

The harmonic movement beginning in measure 53 should be carefully balanced vertically for a seamless sonority. In addition, please ensure uniform dynamic shaping as notated to preserve that balance and blend.

I hope you and the orchestra find **A Mother's Hymn** to be a rewarding musical experience. Please pass on my eternal gratitude to the strongest and most nurturing members of our global human family, our mothers!



### ABOUT THE ARRANGER



**Robert W. Smith** (b. 1958) is one of the most popular and prolific composers in America today. He has over 600 publications in print with the majority composed and arranged through his long association with Warner Bros. Publications and the Belwin catalog.

Mr. Smith's credits include many compositions and productions in all areas of the music field. His original works for winds and percussion have been programmed by countless military, university, high school, and middle school bands throughout the United States, Canada, Europe, Australia, South America and Asia. His Symphony #1 (The Divine Comedy), Symphony #2 (The Odyssey), Symphony #3 (Don Quixote), Inchon and Africa: Ceremony, Song and Ritual have received worldwide critical acclaim. His educational compositions such as The Tempest, Encanto, and The Great Locomotive Chase have become standards for developing bands throughout the world.

Mr. Smith's music has received extensive airplay on major network television as well as inclusion in multiple motion pictures. From professional ensembles such as the United States Navy Band, United States Air Force Band, Boston Pops and the Atlanta Symphony to school bands and orchestras throughout the world, his music speaks to audiences in any concert setting. As a conductor, clinician and keynote speaker, Mr. Smith has performed throughout North America, Asia, South America, Europe and Australia. His music has been recorded by various ensembles and is available on CD and download through Walking Frog Records, iTunes, Amazon, and other recorded music outlets.

Mr. Smith is the President/CEO of RWS Music Company, exclusively distributed through C. L. Barnhouse. In addition, he is currently teaching in the Music Industry program at Troy University in Troy, Alabama. His teaching responsibilities are focused in music composition, production, publishing and business.



In loving memory of Grazia W. Smith

# A MOTHER'S HYMN

Conductor Score

(How Great Thou Art)

Arr. by Robert W. Smith (ASCAP)

RWS-2384-00

2 Gently  $\text{♩} = 60$

Violin 1

Violin 2

Viola

Cello

Double Bass

Piano  
(Optional)

Percussion  
Chimes  
(Optional)

8

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vcl.

D.B.

Pno.

Perc.

2 3 5 6 8 9 10 11 12

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13

Vln. 1 *mf*

Vln. 2 *mp*

Vla. *mp*

Vcl. *mp*

D.B.

Pno.

Perc.

13 14 15 16 17 18

21

Vln. 1 *mp* *rit.* Solo

Vln. 2 *mp*

Vla. *mp*

Vcl. *mp*

D.B. *mp*

Pno. *mp*

Perc.

19 20 21 22 23 24

**25** With Motion ♩ = 68

*mf* *mp* *mp* *mp* *mp* *mp*

*rit.* *p* *p* *p* *p* *p*

*Tutti*

25 26 27 28 29 30

**31** A Tempo

*mf* *mf* *mf* *mf* *mf* *mf*

*rit.* *p* *p* *p* *p* *p*

31 32 33 34 35 36 *mp*

**37 A Tempo**

Vln. 1 *f* *mf* *p* *f*

Vln. 2 *f* *mf* *p* *f*

Vla. *f* *p* *f*

Vcl. *f* *p* *f*

D.B. *f* *p* *f*

Pno. *f* *p* *f*

Perc. *mf* *f*

37 38 39 40 41 42

**48 Gently ♩ = 60**

Vln. 1 *rit.* *mp* *ff* *mf* *mp*

Vln. 2 *mp* *ff* *mf* *mp*

Vla. *mp* *ff* *mf*

Vcl. *mp* *ff* *mf*

D.B. *mp* *ff* *mp*

Pno. *mp* *ff* *mp*

Perc.

43 44 45 46 47 48





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