



This "Concert of Praise" is entirely based upon hymn tunes and texts found in the first five editions of a shape-note hymnal entitled *Genuine Church Music*, published in Harrisonburg, Virginia. The first edition appeared in 1832, and the fifth edition, twenty years later. The editor was Joseph Funk, a Mennonite farmer, schoolmaster, and musician.

Many of these hymnals were published in the United States in the first half of the nineteenth century. They borrowed extensively from one another. Songs of William Billings came from New England through the coastal cities, and then to the mountain counties, where Appalachian folksongs and spirituals completed the exchange. Few composers are given credit for their work. Many lovely tunes are completely anonymous, but the texts are often well-known. Isaac Watts is particularly well-represented.

Shape notes were a device to aid in teaching music reading. In the earliest books, four shape notes (a triangle, a square, a circle, and a diamond) were used to correspond to the syllables *fa*, *sol*, *la*, and *mi*. Later the system expanded to seven shapes-and-syllables, and there are still hymnals and gospel songs published in these editions. Joseph Funk was one of many itinerant song leaders, who traveled many miles leading singing schools in villages on the frontier, selling his books as he went, and collecting new tunes for the next edition. Hymn singing was a pricncipal social activity for these hard-working, religious people, and it is easy to see why when we hear the variety and beauty of these songs.

We hear formal, classic music in the opening chorus, *Zion*, the familiar *Come*, *Ye Disconsolate*, and the charming duet, *Spring*. There are joyful rhythmic dances in *Be Joyful in God*, and *Zion's Light*. Folk tunes are heard, and soaring modal melodies, as well as a cheerful gospel hymn, *The Parting Hymn*, which came from Wales. There are two magnificent congregational hymns: *Tamworth* ("Guide me, O thou great Jehovah") and *Union* ("God moves in a mysterious way"), which deserve to be reinstated with honor in our contemporary hymnals.

This cantata is divided into four movements: *Welcome, Old Testament, New Testament,* and *Farewells* (The Promised Land), with the hymn tune *Union* as a fitting conclusion. May its performance remind us of the riches of our newly-discovered heritage of folk hymns, and serve to unite us with Melodious Accord in His praise.

—Alice Parker

#### Notes on the Second Edition

Rehearsal letters have been added.

No. 3, m. 53: Baritone Solo duration has been shortened to a quarter note.

No. 4, m. 15: Tenor and Bass rhythm corrected to six eighth notes (missing eighth-note A in the original).

No. 6, m. 7: Dotted-quarter-note D has been changed to quarter note followed by an eighth rest.

No. 7, m. 1: An entire measure of music has been added to the introduction.

No. 10, final measure (m. 48): Durations have been lengthened to a dotted half note tied to an eighth note.

No. 12, m. 86: Fermata removed on fourth eighth note; bass rhythm changed to a dotted half note.

No. 12: Added measure at end.

#### Catalog No. 3010

Commissioned by the Franconia and Lancaster Choral Singers, Hiram Hershey, Conductor First performance: May 18, 1974

# Melodious Accord



An additional full score is available for sale (3010A); the full score and parts are available for rental.

\* Octaves are sometimes added for extra resonance for performances without the full instrumental ensemble. Also, some pitches are transposed by an octave for the sake of keyboard fingering and extra resonance.









49 *.* S. Solo lib-'ral hand\_con - fess - ing, Which thro' each heart\_ dif-fus - eth lib-'ral hand con- fess - ing, A. Solo dif-fus - eth\_ thro'\_each heart Which Θ T. Solo hand\_con - fess - ing, Which. dif-fus - eth lib -'ral Bar. Solo Which thro' dif-fus - eth lib -'ral hand con - fess - ing, each heart 53 S. Solo Θ bless ry ing. A. Solo 0 bless ing. r 0 T. Solo ry bless ing. Bar. Solo **9**: 0 bless ing. ev ò mf [Brass]

0



2. Lord, I approach thy mercy-seat









# 4. Be joyful in God









# 5. The voice of my beloved sounds







#### 7. When I survey the wondrous cross



\* This bar of music does not appear in the original edition.



## 8. Come, O thou traveler unknown







A

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sim.







who their

who their

arranged by Alice Parker

py\_are they,

are

py

they,

Charles Wesley, 1749 NEW CONCORD from Harmonia Sacra





# 10. That glorious day is drawing nigh

**Vigorously**  $\downarrow$  = 96 А unis. f Soprano Alto That glo - rious day unis. **f** Tenor **)**:‡<sub>#</sub> Ì ţ. Bass glo - rious day That is **Vigorously**  $\downarrow = 96$ ŧ Keyboard [Brass] 🕇 ð S A <u>6</u> 8 draw-ing nigh, When Zi - on's light\_shall come; She T B **)**:# 68 draw-ing nigh, When Zi - on's light\_shall She come; 6 8 Ł 6 8 ş. Ŧ

ZION'S LIGHT from *Harmonia Sacra* arranged by Alice Parker





#### 11. How sweet to reflect









## 12. How pleasant thus to dwell below









## 13. God moves in a mysterious way







