


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 $f a$, sol, $l a$, 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.

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.

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

## Melodious Accord

Philip Doddridge

## 1. House of our God

ZION from Harmonia Sacra


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.



B



S
26

A

T






John Newton

BURFORD from Harmonia Sacra



A


A


## 3. Come, ye disconsolate



Bar. Solo


Bar. Solo
 fer-vent-ly kneel; Here bring your wound-ed hearts, here tell_ your

an - guish, Earth _ hath no sor - row that heav'n can - not heal.



BE JOYFUL IN GOD from Harmonia Sacra arranged by Alice Parker Vigorously ..$=66$




SPRING from Harmonia Sacra arranged by Alice Parker


S 2


S 1

S 2


S 1

$21 \quad \lambda=\downarrow$
S 1


S 2


Gen - tly doth he chide _ my stay,__ "Rise, my love, and come a-way."


S 2


Tempo I

S 1


Slower, free
Tempo I



S 2



Now with sweet - ly pen - sive moan,_ Coos the tur - tle dove a-lone;


S 1


S 1


## 7. When I survey the wondrous cross

Isaac Watts, 1707
RETIREMENT from Harmonia Sacra


[^0]

Charles Wesley, 1742
VERNON from Harmonia Sacra arranged by Alice Parker






17 B
B


B



Charles Wesley, 1749
NEW CONCORD from Harmonia Sacra arranged by Alice Parker



10. That glorious day is drawing nigh

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




## 11. How sweet to reflect

EDEN OF LOVE from Harmonia Sacra arranged by Alice Parker

T. Solo

## 13

T. Solo

T. Solo

T. Solo




## 12. How pleasant thus to dwell below



T

fel-low-ship of love:-And though we part,- tis bliss to know _ the good shall meet a-


T


T. Solo Bar. Solo


Ca-naan's hap - py shore,
S
A

T
B


A


T
B


C
The chil-dren who _have loved the Lord - will hail their teach-er
S. Solo
A. Solo

## 38




William Cowper, 1773

28
B

S

A

s

A

T


T





[^0]:    * This bar of music does not appear in the original edition.

