

“Hold On” seems to be a theme in my music. In fact, it is the title of my solo CD. I’ve learned that sometimes we *thrive*, and sometimes the best we can do is simply *survive*. This anthem can be used with so many worship themes and scriptures. Many Psalm texts and stories from the Gospels call upon the Lord to save us from our distress amidst sinking sand or swirling waters or shaking mountains.

Often, when I hear of a natural disaster on the news, I reflect on how many people every day are hit by their personal earthquakes or tsunamis when they receive a medical test result or a call from the highway patrol or a pink slip at work. “It doesn’t take an earthquake to shake the ground you stand on.” But our faith would call us to “hold on to the Rock of Ages” and to carry on with confidence and trust.

So this is not intended to be just a playful, entertaining song. Sing it from the depth of your voice and your soul. Minister to your listeners as you lead them to the Rock.

Pepper Choplin

Review Only

Hold On to the Rock

TTBB *a cappella* and Solo with opt. Piano

Words and Music by
Pepper Choplin

Gospel swing ♩ = ca. 112

The musical score is written for a TTBB a cappella group and an optional piano accompaniment. It is in 4/4 time with a key signature of two flats (Bb and Eb). The tempo is marked as 'Gospel swing' with a quarter note equal to approximately 112 beats per minute. The score begins with an optional piano accompaniment (mp) in the first system. The vocal parts enter in the second system with the lyrics 'You've got to hold** on to the Rock of Ages,'. The piano accompaniment continues with a steady bass line and chords. The score includes finger snap markings (*Finger snaps) above the vocal lines. The lyrics continue: 'Hold on to the Corner-stone. Stand strong on the hold on to the Corner-stone, got-ta stand strong on the'. The score ends with a final piano accompaniment section.

*Whenever finger snaps or handclaps are indicated, they are to occur on beats 2 and 4.

**Strong "h" on "hold" throughout.

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10
8

Sure Foun - da - tion, sur - round ed by the For - tress strong.

Sure Foun - da - tion, sur - round - ed by the For - tress strong. And-(duh)

13
8

mf When all the storms of life are ra - ging,

mf when all the storms of life are ra - ging,

hold on, _____

15
8

f hold on, _____

f hold on, _____

f hold on, _____

f hold on, _____

f hold on, _____

f hold on, _____

Handclaps

mf

17 *f*

8 hold on to the Rock. You've got to hold on to the

got - ta hold on to the Rock. You've got to hold on to the

f *mf*

20

8 Rock of A - ges, hold on to the Cor - ner - stone.

Rock of A - ges, hold on to the Cor - ner - stone, got - ta

23

8 Stand strong on the Sure Foun - da - tion,

stand strong on the Sure Foun - da - tion,

mel.

Soloist

 mf

**Finger snaps*

32

32

You know that it does - n't take a

Rock.

Hold on, _____

Rock.

migh-ty earth - quake to shake the ground you stand__

hold on, hold on, you got - ta

36

8

on. 'Cause life can change like a hur - ri - cane and

8

ho - (woh)ld on. Hold on, hold on,

8

8

39

8

blow all the plans you planned on. Well, the

8

hold on, you got - ta ho - (woh)ld on.

8

8

Handclaps

45

8

hold on_____ to the Rock of A - ges,_____

hold on_____ to the Rock of A - ges,

47

8

Hold on_____ to the Cor - ner - stone.

hold on_____ to the Cor - ner - stone, got - ta

49

8

Stand strong_____ on the Sure Foun - da - tion,

mel.

stand strong_____ on the Sure Foun - da - tion,

51

8

sur - round ed by the For - tress strong.

mel.

sur - round - ed by the For - tress strong. And - (duh)

53

8

When all the storms of life are ra - ging,

when all the storms of life are ra - ging,

mf

55

8

hold on, hold on, hold on, Hold on to the

f hold on, got - ta hold on to the

f

58 Soloist *mf* Finger snaps

You know some - times when life is ea -

Rock. Hold on, _____

Rock.

60

- sy, _____ it's so ea - sy _____ to keep the faith,

hold on, _____ hold on, _____ you got - ta

62

8 to be grate-ful__ for ev - 'ry bless - ing, when ev - 'ry

8 ho-(woh)ld on. Hold on,__ hold on,__

65

8 bless-ing__ comes our way.__ But when life shakes us to our

8 hold on,__ you got - ta ho-(woh)ld on. life shakes us to our

mf

mf

mf

68

8

ver - y soul,

who you gon - na trust and - (uh)

8

ver - y soul,

who you gon - na trust and - (uh)

8

70

8

where you gon-na go. You got - ta

where you gon-na go. You got - ta hold on to the

hold on to the

8

8

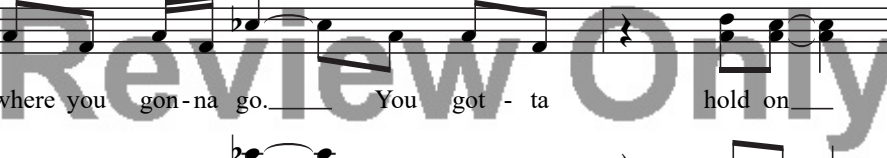
Stop finger snaps

f

f

f

Handclaps



72
8

Rock of A - ges, Hold on to the Cor - ner - stone.

Rock of A - ges, hold on to the Cor - ner - stone, got - ta

75
8

Stand strong on the Sure Foun - da - tion, sur - round ed by the

stand strong on the Sure Foun - da - tion, sur - round - ed by the

78
8

For - tress strong. When all the storms of life are ra - ging,

For - tress strong. And-(duh) when all the storms of life are ra - ging,

mf

16 hold on, _____

81 *f* *f* *f* hold on, _____ hold on, _____ Hold on _____ to the

f *f* hold on, _____ got - ta hold on _____ to the

84 *molto rit.* Rock. Hold on _____ to the Rock. You've got to

Rock. You've got to got - ta hold on _____ to the Rock. *molto rit.*

87 *ff* hold on _____ to the Rock, hold on _____ to the Rock. *ff*

The musical score is written for voice and piano. It consists of three systems of staves. The first system (measures 81-83) features a vocal melody with lyrics 'hold on, _____ hold on, _____ Hold on _____ to the' and piano accompaniment with a strong *f* dynamic. The second system (measures 84-86) continues the vocal melody with lyrics 'Rock. Hold on _____ to the Rock. You've got to' and piano accompaniment, marked *molto rit.* The third system (measures 87-89) concludes with the vocal melody 'hold on _____ to the Rock, hold on _____ to the Rock.' and piano accompaniment, marked *ff*. A large, semi-transparent watermark 'Lorenz' is visible across the middle of the page.