Foreword

As a young boy I often went to the Rex Theater in Fairfield, Iowa and watched all my cowboy heroes do their thing against the backdrop of the immense landscapes of the west. Those beautiful horses and vivid colors captured my imagination like nothing else could. The “Rex” eventually closed down and almost immediately became home to the Calvary Baptist Church. I soon became their pianist while learning to play those old hymns from the Cokesbury hymnal. As it happens, more than half the selections in this book come from that hymnal.

The American melting pot has made these old hymns as American as apple pie. While writing these arrangements, I’ve tried to evoke the wide-open spaces and the loneliness, joy and determination of those who settled all across this great landscape we call America. I’m sure it must have been a comfort to sing those wonderful old hymns while facing the challenges and travails of their American journey.

I’d like to single out one musical example of my thought process on “I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say.” This hymn, number 611 in the ELW hymnal, is basically just a lead sheet with no harmony indicated except for the key signature. It definitely has a modal sound (aeolian) and made me think of the native American flute. In my mind’s eye I could see wagon train travelers waking up on the prairie (possibly Kansas or Nebraska) to a beautiful Sunday morning and feeling a sense of beauty and peace but also foreboding since they were in Indian country. The introduction, interlude and ending are meant to conjure up the sound of the Indian flute.

John Turner

I would like to dedicate “Hymns of the American Landscape” to Reverend D.O. Van Dyne and his wife Marilyn who shepherded the flock of that original Calvary Baptist Church and also gave me the start to my musical career. They have now fully emigrated to the west and live in California.

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MARCHING TO ZION

70/2220L-2
Revive Us Again

John Turner
Tune: REVIVE US AGAIN
by John J. Husband (1760-1825)

Andante \( \frac{d}{4} = 80 \)

Duration: 2:05

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70/2220L-3
Nothing But the Blood of Jesus

John Turner
Tune: PLAINFIELD
by Robert Lowry (1826-1899)

Andante $\frac{d}{2} = 96$
Swing 8ths $\frac{\dot{d}}{2} = \frac{\dot{3}}{2}$

Duration: 2:55

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Do, Lord

John Turner
Traditional American spiritual

Lively \( j = 200 \)

Duration: 1:55
Shall We Gather at the River

John Turner
Tune: HANSON PLACE
by Robert Lowry (1826-1899)

Andante $d = 100$

Duration: 2:25

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2nd time to Coda \( \Theta \)
The Solid Rock

Adagio $\dot{=}$ 56

Flowing $\dot{=}$ 72

Duration: 3:05

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Rock of Ages

John Turner
Tune: TOPLADY
by Thomas Hastings (1784-1872)

Adagio $\frac{\text{d}}{\text{e}} = 66$

Duration: 3:15
17

pedal harmonically

21

bring out melody

24

27

30

70/2220L-41
I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say

John Turner
Tune: KINGSFOLD
Traditional English melody

Adagio \( \frac{\text{1}}{\text{4}} = 72 \)

Duration: 3:10
With determination
We’re Marching to Zion

John Turner
Tune: MARCHING TO ZION
by Robert Lowry (1826-1899)

Allegro $\frac{1}{4} = 110$

Duration: 2:10

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