

Hymns of Creation

William Phemister

Advanced

# Hymns of Creation

14 CREATIVE SETTINGS FOR THE ADVANCED PIANIST

# CREATION

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Sam

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## *Foreword*

It's been a great joy to create interpretations of these classic hymns that tell the wonders of creation by the hand of God. The texts enhance our worship and our understanding of what it means to be a Christian in a world that couldn't possibly have happened by chance. I felt it was very important to insert texts into the musical score to give performers a better understanding of the musical setting of those words. Each piece is more like a flowering of an initial idea rather than a set of variations on each verse of a hymn. You will note that the subtle movement from one texture to another, one register to another, one key tonality to another occurs naturally.

These titles are all found in the "Creation" section of your modern hymnbook's Topical Index, but each has a special personal meaning beginning from my many years in church music ministry. I think of my time as organist/choral director at the Babcock Presbyterian Church in Baltimore, 1969-72, where we frequently sang Maltbie Babcock's "This is My Father's World." Or, hiking in Aspen, Colorado with my wife singing "I sing the mighty power of God that made the mountains rise..." Or, writing Beethoven's "Hymn to Joy" for a talented young student to make it sound more difficult for her than it actually was and including Beethoven's original syncopation before the last line.

An additional note: it's okay to put the text of the hymn or the Bible verse on the overhead screen while playing your Prelude, Offertory, or Postlude. Our goal is all about enhancing the worship experience through Music and the Word.

May God bless you as you discover and interpret this music that comes from my heart to yours.

—William Phemister

for Craig Curry

# All Creatures of Our God and King

*All your works shall give thanks to you, O LORD;  
and all your faithful shall bless you. Psalm 145:10*

William Phemister

Tune: LASST UNS ERFREUEN  
from *Geistliche Kirchengesänge* (1623)

Majestic  $\text{d} = 92$

*f*

*cresc.*

*pedal ad lib.*

*(8va)-----*

*ff*

*mp*

*\* All creatures of our God and King,* *lift up your voice and with us sing,*

*O praise ye!* *Alleluia!* *O brother sun with golden beam,*

*mf* *f* *mf* *p*

4 2 4 2

7

11

LL

The musical score consists of five staves of music for two voices (SATB). The first staff starts in G major (3/2 time) with dynamic *f*. The second staff begins with dynamic *ff*. The third staff starts with dynamic *mp*. The fourth staff begins with dynamic *mf*, followed by *f*, *mf*, and *p*. The fifth staff ends with a repeat sign and *LL*.

\* Text by St. Francis of Assisi (1182-1226); paraphrased by William H. Draper (1855-1933)

Duration: 2:00

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30

*rising morn, in praise rejoice,*

*ye*

32

*lights of evening, find a voice!*

*O praise ye!*

35

*Alleluia!*

*cresc.*

38

41

*O sister water, flowing clear,*

*make music for thy Lord to hear,*

43

*Alleluia!*

46

*O brother fire who lights the night,*

49

*-viding warmth, enhancing sight,*

*O praise ye!*

52

*Alleluia!*

55

for Andrew Paney

# All Things Bright and Beautiful

*You have made heaven . . . with all their host, the earth and all that is on it,  
the seas and all that is in them. To all of them you give life. Nehemiah 9:6*

**William Phemister**  
Tune: ROYAL OAK  
English melody

**Fast and joyful**  $\text{♩} = 72$

8va - - - - -

semi-detached  
*mp*

5 (8va) - 7

*mf*

pedal ad lib.

\* *All things bright and beautiful,*      *all creatures great and small,*

9

*all things wise and wonderful,*      *the Lord God made them all.*

13

*Each little flow'r that opens,*      *each little bird that sings,*

\* Text by Cecil F. Alexander (1818-1895)

Duration: 1:50

34

*The purple-headed mountain,*

*the*

*river running by,*

*the*

*sunset, and the morning*

*that brightens up the sky.*

mf

mf

8va-----

(8va)

49

*All things bright and beautiful...*

*God*

*p*

*gave us eyes to see them, 8<sup>vb</sup>*

*and lips that we might tell*

*how great is God Almighty,*

*who has made all things well.*

*All things bright and beautiful...*

*pp*

*8<sup>vb</sup>*

for Nancy Hayden Hueber

# **Come, Ye Thankful People, Come**

*You crown the year with your bounty. Psalm 65:11*

## William Phemister

Tune: ST. GEORGE'S, WINDSOR  
**George J. Elvey (1816-1893)**

## Gently flowing ♩=80

*pedal ad lib.*

4

*\* Come, ye thankful people, come,*

7

*raise the song of harvest home:*

11

*ere the winter storms begin.*

*all is safely gathered in*

*God, our Maker, doth provide*

\* Text by Henry Alford (1810-1871)

Duration: 2:15

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29

*First the blade and then the ear,*

*then the full corn shall appear:*

*Lord of harvest, grant that we*

*wholesome grain and pure may be.*

32

35

38

42

**Fairest Lord Jesus***Your eyes will see the king in his beauty. Isaiah 33:17***William Phemister**

Tune: ST. ELIZABETH

from *Schlesische Volkslieder*, 1842

**Quietly ♩ = 92**

*p*

*pedal ad lib.*

5

\* Fairest Lord Jesus,  
ruler of all nature,

9

O thou of God  
to earth come down,

13

thee will I cherish,  
thee will I honor,

\* Text: Anonymous

Duration: 2:15

**Smoothly** ♩ = 80

36

Fair is the sunshine,

38

fairer still the moonlight,

40

and all the twinkling, starry host;

43

Jesus shines brighter,  
Jesus shines purer

47

poco rit.  
pp

than all the angels heaven can boast.

for Timothy Krueger

**God Moves in a Mysterious Way***So are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts. Isaiah 55:9***William Phemister**

Tune: DUNDEE

from *Scottish Psalter*, 1615Freely moving  $\text{♩} = 104$ 

*\* God moves in a mysterious way,  
his wonders to perform;  
he plants his footsteps in the sea,  
and rides upon the storm.*

\* Text by William Cowper (1731-1800)

Duration: 3:30

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37

*but trust him for his grace;*

41

*behind a frowning providence*

*is veiled a smiling face.*

45

*mp*

49

*Slightly slower*

*emphasis on the melody note*

*His purposes will ripen fast,*

51

*unfolded every hour;*

53

*the bud may have a bitter taste,*

55

*but sweet will be the flow'r.*

57

**Tempo I (♩ = 104)**

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

*Blind unbelief*      *is sure to err*

60

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

*and scan his work in vain;*      *God is his own interpreter*      *and he will make it plain.*

64

*pp*      *gradually slowing to the end*

for Ron and Carol Brushwyler

**For the Beauty of the Earth***He has made everything beautiful in its time. Ecclesiastes 3:11*

William Phemister

Tune: DIX

by Conrad Kocher (1786-1872)

Gently flowing  $\text{♩} = 96$ 

3  
Gently flowing  $\text{♩} = 96$

*p*  
*pedal ad lib.*

5  
*mp*

9  
*mf*

\* *For the beauty of the earth,*      *for the glory of the skies,*

12  
*p*  
*mf*

*for the love which from our birth over and around us lies,*

\* Text by Folliot S. Pierpont (1835-1917)

Duration: 3:00

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30

*Lord of all...*

33

36

*pp*

39

*mf*

*For the joy of ear and eye,*

42

*for the heart and mind's delight,*

*for the mystic harmony*

The image shows a musical score for two staves (treble and bass) across five systems. The key signature changes from G major (two sharps) to F# major (one sharp) at measure 33. Measure 30 features a sustained note on the fourth string of the bass staff. Measures 31-32 show a transition with various chords. Measure 33 begins with a bassoon part. Measure 34 is mostly rests. Measure 35 starts with a bassoon part again. Measure 36 is dynamic *pp*, featuring eighth-note patterns. Measure 37 continues the eighth-note patterns. Measure 38 consists of quarter notes. Measure 39 starts with eighth-note patterns again. Measure 40 consists of quarter notes. Measure 41 starts with eighth-note patterns. Measure 42 concludes the piece.

45

*linking sense to sound and sight.*

48

*Lord of all ....*

48

51

*8vb*

54

*(8vb)*

Slightly faster  $\text{♩} = 108$

*p*

*f*

*p*

*For the joy of human love,*

60

*brother, sister, parent, child,*

63

*mp*

*p*

*for all gentle thoughts and mild,*

*friends on earth, and friends above,*

Holding back  $\text{♩} = 100$

*mf*

*poco rit.*

*f*

*ff*

*Lord of all....*

69

Broader  $\text{♩} = 96$

6

6

8<sup>vb</sup>---

73

6

4

4

4

fff

(8<sup>vb</sup>)

The musical score consists of five systems of music for two voices (treble and bass) and piano. Measure 60 starts with eighth-note chords in common time. Measure 61 begins with eighth-note chords followed by sustained notes. Measure 62 continues with eighth-note chords. Measure 63 starts with eighth-note chords at *mp*, followed by sustained notes and eighth-note chords at *p*. Measure 64 begins with eighth-note chords. Measure 65 starts with eighth-note chords followed by sustained notes. Measure 66 begins with eighth-note chords at *mf*, followed by sustained notes and eighth-note chords at *poco rit.*, then eighth-note chords at *f*, and finally eighth-note chords at *ff*. The lyrics "Holding back" and the tempo "♩ = 100" are written above the staff in measure 66. Measure 69 starts with eighth-note chords at "Broader ♩ = 96". Measure 70 begins with eighth-note chords. Measure 71 starts with eighth-note chords. Measure 72 begins with eighth-note chords. Measure 73 starts with eighth-note chords at 6/4 time, followed by 4/4, then 4/4. The dynamic "fff" is indicated at the end of measure 73. The lyrics "Lord of all...." are written below the staff in measure 66. Large yellow question marks are drawn over measures 60-66 and 69-73.

for David Bowden

**How Great Thou Art***Great is the LORD and greatly to be praised. Psalm 48:1***William Phemister**

Tune: O STORE GUD

Swedish folk melody

Reverently  $\text{♩} = 76$ 

*p*      *mp*

*pedal ad lib.*

\* *O Lord, my God, when I in awesome*

4

*wonder consider all the worlds thy hands have made,*

*I see the*

7

*stars, I hear the rolling thunder,*

*thy power throughout the universe displayed.*

10

*mf*

*Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to thee;*

*How great thou*

\* Text by Stuart K. Hine (1899-1989)

Duration: 2:15

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28

*that on the cross,*      *my burden gladly bearing,*      *he bled and died*

31

*to take away my sin.*      *Then sings my soul...*

34

37

40

for Madeleine Jao

**Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee**

*O LORD, how manifold are your works! In wisdom you made them all,  
the earth is full of your creatures. Psalm 104:24*

William Phemister

Tune: HYMN TO JOY

by Ludwig van Beethoven (1770-1827)

In a moderate tempo  $\text{♩} = 112$ 

pedal ad lib.

5

\* Joyful, joyful, we adore thee,  
God of glory, Lord of love,

9

hearts unfold like flowers before thee,  
opening to the sun above.

13

Melt the clouds of sin and sadness;  
drive the dark of doubt away.

\* Text by Henry van Dyke (1852-1933)

Duration: 2:40

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Slower ♩ = 84

37

*Thou art giving and forgiving,* ever blessing, ever blest,

41

*well-spring of the joy of living,* ocean depth of happy rest!

Tempo I ♩ = 112

45

*Thou our Father, Christ our brother,* all who live in love are thine;

49

*teach us how to love each other,* lift us to the joy divine.

52

*Mortals, join the mighty chorus*

The music consists of two staves: treble and bass. Measure 37 starts with a dynamic *p*. Measures 41 and 49 both begin with a dynamic *mp*, followed by *f* in measure 49. Measures 52 start with a dynamic *mf*.

55



*which the morning stars began;*

*love divine is reigning o'er us,*

58

*binding all within its span.*

61

*mf*

*sfp*

*Ever singing, march we onward,*

*victors in the midst of strife;*

65

*joyful music leads us sunward,*

*in the triumph song of life.*

69

*ff*

*8vb*

Musical score for two voices (Bass and Treble) and piano. The score consists of five systems of music. The first system (measures 55-57) features eighth-note patterns in both voices. The second system (measures 58-60) shows a transition with different rhythms. The third system (measures 61-63) includes dynamic markings 'mf' and 'sfp'. The fourth system (measures 65-67) includes dynamic 'f'. The fifth system (measure 69) concludes with a forte dynamic 'ff' and a bass clef with '8vb' below it.

for Jamie Rankin

# Praise to the Lord, the Almighty

*Praise the Lord, O my soul; all my inmost being,  
praise his holy name. Psalm 103:1*

William Phemister

Tune: LOBE DEN HERREN

from Stralsund Gesangbuch, 1665

Majestically ♩ = 108

Musical score for two voices and piano, featuring four staves of music. The score includes lyrics in English and German. The tempo is marked as Majestically ♩ = 108.

1. *Praise the Lord, O my soul; all my inmost being,  
praise his holy name. Psalm 103:1*

2. *\* Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the King of creation!  
O my soul, praise him,*

3. *for he is your health and salvation!*

4. *Come, all who hear;  
now to his temple draw near,*

\* Text by Joachim Neander (1650-1680); tr. Catherine Winkworth (1827-1878)

Duration: 2:15

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40

*if with his love he befriends you.*

45

49 (♩ = ♪)

*Praise to the Lord! O let all that is in me adore him!*

53

*All that has life and breath,*

57

*come now with praises before him.*

61

*Let the Amen* sound from his people again;

65

*gladly forever adore him.*

(♩ = ♪) (8<sup>va</sup>) - 1

69

*mf*

74

*mp*

79

*mf* — *f* *ff*

8<sup>vib</sup> - - - - -

for Heidi Williams

**This Is My Father's World***The morning stars sang together and all the heavenly beings shouted for joy. Job 38:7*

William Phemister

Tune: TERRA BEATA

by Franklin L. Sheppard (1852-1930)

In a moderate tempo  $\text{♩} = 104$ 

A musical score for two voices (treble and bass) in 4/4 time, key signature of one flat. The music consists of four staves of music. Large yellow musical notes (a C-clef, a G-clef, a D-clef, and a bass F-clef) are overlaid on the music, each containing a portion of the lyrics. The first staff starts with a treble clef, a bass clef, and a bass F-clef. The second staff starts with a bass F-clef. The third staff starts with a treble clef. The fourth staff starts with a bass F-clef.

*mp*  
pedal ad lib.  
*\* This is my Father's world,*

*and to my listening ears  
all nature sings, and round me rings*

*the music of the spheres.*

*This is my Father's world;  
I rest me in the thought*

\* Text by Maltbie D. Babcock (1858-1901)

Duration: 2:10

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28

*He shines in all that's fair.*

31

*In the rustling grass I hear him pass;* *he speaks to me everywhere.*

34

37

*This is my Father's world;* *oh, let me ne'er forget*

40

*that though the wrong seems oft so strong,*

43



*God is the Ruler yet.*

*This is my Father's world;*

46



*the battle is not done;*

*Jesus, who died, shall be*

49



*satisfied,*

*mf*

52



*and earth and heaven be one.*

for Daniel Gorrell

# We Plow the Fields and Scatter

*He has shown kindness by giving you rain from heaven and crops in their seasons. Acts 14:17*

William Phemister

Tune: WIR PFLÜGEN

by Johann A. P. Schulz (1747-1800)

Joyfully  $\text{♩} = 72$ 

pedal ad lib.

4       $8^{va}$

*\* We plow the fields and scatter  
the good seed on the land,*

*but it is fed and watered  
by God's almighty hand;*

*he sends the snow in winter,*

\* Text by Matthias Claudius (1740-1815); tr. Jane M. Campbell (1817-1878)

Duration: 2:15

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35

*p*

39

*We thank you then, O Father ...*

43

*mp*

*We thank you then, O Father ...*

47

*mf*

*We thank you then, O Father, for all things bright and good,*

51

*the seedtime and the harvest, our life, our health, our food;*

55

*accept the gifts we offer, for all your love imparts,*

59

*but that which you desire now: our humble, thankful hearts.*

63

*All good gifts around us are sent from heav'n above;*

67

Broader  $\text{d} = 66$

*then thank the Lord,*

71

*O thank the Lord*

*for all his love.*

for Stephen Kolb

**I Sing the Mighty Power of God**

*Great is our Lord and mighty in power;  
his understanding has no limit. Psalm 147:5*

**William Phemister**

Tune: ELLACOMBE

from *Gesangbuch der Herzogl.*, 1784**Allegro**  $\text{♩} = 120$ 

46

*mf*

*pedal ad lib.*

4

*f*

8

*\* I sing the mighty power of God that made the mountains rise,*

*that spread the flowing seas abroad and built the lofty skies.*

12

*mf*

*I sing the wisdom that ordained the sun to rule the day;*

\* Text by Isaac Watts (1674-1748)

Duration: 2:10

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31

*Lord, how your wonders are displayed where'er I turn my eyes,*

*if I survey the ground I tread or gaze upon the skies.*

*There's not a plant or flower below*  
*but makes your glories known,*

40

44

70/2416L-48

48

*and clouds arise and tempests blow by order from your throne:*

52

55

*While all that borrows life from you is ever in your care,*

58

*and everywhere that I can be, you, God, are present there.*

62

*ff*

*8vb*

for Timothy Bandy

**Now Thank We All Our God***Now, our God, we give thanks to you, and praise your glorious name. I Chronicles 29:13*

William Phemister

Tune: NUN DANKEST

by Johann Crüger (1598-1662)

**Allegro**  $\text{♩} = 112$ 

Musical score for piano, featuring four staves of music. The first staff starts with a forte dynamic (f) and a instruction 'pedal ad lib.'. The second staff begins at measure 3. The third staff begins at measure 6. The fourth staff begins at measure 9. The music consists of various note patterns, rests, and dynamics like *p* and *mp*.

Duration: 1:40

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32

*mf*

35

*f*

38

*f*

41

*ff*

*mf*

*f*

44

*ff*

*8vb*

# When Morning Gilds the Skies

*I will sing aloud of your steadfast love in the morning. Psalm 59:16*

William Phemister

Tune: LAUDES DOMINI

by Joseph Barnby (1838-1896)

Simply  $\text{♩} = 120$

*pedal ad lib.*

5

10

15

\* When morning gilds the skies,  
my heart awaking cries,  
may Jesus Christ be praised!

Alike at work and prayer

*p*

*mp*

*mf*

\* Text from *Katholiches Gesangbuch*, 1828

Duration: 1:55

35

*may Jesus Christ be praised!*

*mf*

*f*

*ff*

*Let*

39

*earth's wide circle round*

*in joyful notes resound:*

43

*may Jesus Christ be praised!*

*Let air and sea and sky,*

*mf*

46

*gradually slowing to end*

*from depth to height reply:*

*f*

7

49

*may Jesus Christ be praised!*

*ff*

*fff*