

THE FIRST SONG OF ISAIAH

WHITE

SATB & Unison



THE FIRST SONG OF ISAIAH

by JACK NOBLE WHITE



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Composed for and dedicated to the "CALABAMAHAMIANS," young musical delegates from California, Nevada, Alabama and Nassau in the Bahamas - in conference at Beckwith Lodge near Mobile, Alabama.

PERFORMANCE NOTES

"The First Song of Isaiah" is one of three canticles taken from the Book of Isaiah. It offers a text of broad usefulness, yet significant meaning. Though of obvious use in any general service, in special services it would find itself applicable from weddings to funerals, from the Easter Season to Christmas. It has, in fact, been used as a prelude to Christmas Eve, recognizing the prophecy of Isaiah and offering an Old Testament background to the Nativity theme.

This musical setting of "The First Song of Isaiah" has been designed to be extremely flexible and can range from the simplest presentation to an extravaganza. It can be performed in unison, all singing the top line throughout, with a simple keyboard and/or guitar accompaniment. If the congregation participates and there is a choir, the congregation may sing only on the refrains as indicated in the "people's part." The choir then sings the verses either in unison or in parts as written. If it is done in unison, a few sopranos may sing only the choir soprano parts as a descant. Ideally, it is most effectively done as written: unison congregation on refrains, SATB choir throughout except for the unison beginning which familiarizes the refrain to the congregation. A large choir may want to designate a few in each section to sing the unison part to support the congregation, or a youth choir may be used for that purpose, the senior choir singing parts.

A complete accompaniment is provided: keyboard, guitar, drums, bass guitar, and optional handbells. In one performance, full orchestra was added; in others, only a lone guitar sufficed. The keyboard part, as written, stylistically calls for piano but can be performed on organ. If done by organ alone, the sixteenth note figure in the accompaniment should be performed articulately and the basic rhythm of the bass part retained by repeating the notes rather than sustaining them. If both organ and piano are used, the organ may play sustained chords with the piano setting the rhythmic patterns. In that case, the organist may choose to duplicate the voice parts in some passages for variety.

The suggested part for movement choir is available separately (50¢). It uses candle lanterns made from styrofoam cups, adding another complete dimension to the execution of this piece, and offering an opportunity to involve others who do not normally participate in their church's music program. The candle routine is an excellent project for a youth group.

Regardless of how extravagantly or how simply done, "The First Song of Isaiah" should present a calmly joyful message. Thanks are due to: the Rev. Canon Charles Mortimer Guilbert, whose poetic hand can clearly be seen in the adapting of the canticle from the Scriptures; to Margaret More, who conceived and first executed the movement choir part; and to Dean Edgar G. Parrott and the ninety young people from California, Nevada, Alabama, and the Bahamas who made up the musical community for which the setting was written.

Jack Noble White
Mobile - January 13, 1976

THE FIRST SONG OF ISAIAH

Ecce, Deus

ISAIAH 12: 2-6*

JACK NOBLE WHITE

Slow (♩ = 60)

C F Csus 2 F C F Csus 2 F

Keyboard

Unison Voices

Sure-ly, it is God who saves me; I will trust in him and not be a -

C G/B Am C7/G F Dm7

fraid. For the Lord is my strong-hold and my sure de-fense, and

Gsus 4 G7/F Em7 Am C7/G F G7/F Em7 Amsus 4

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Handbells

he will be my Sav - ior.

Soprano

Alto Ah

Tenor

Bass

Dm7 Gsus 4 C F/C Csus 2 F

Bass Guitar

Light Drums

S. Sure-ly, it is God who saves me; I will trust in him and not be a -

A. Sure-ly, it is God who saves me; I will trust in him and not be a -

T. B.

C G/B Am C7/G F Dm7

fraid. For the Lord is my strong-hold and my sure de-fense, and
fraid. For the Lord is my strong-hold and my sure de - fense, and

Gsus 4 G7/F Em7 Am C7/G F G7/F Em7 Amsus 4

Handbells
he will be my Sav - ior. There -
he will be my Sav - ior. Ah

Dm7 Gsus 4 C F/C Csus 2 F/C

fore you shall draw wa-ter with re - joic - ing from the springs of sal -

Ah ah

C G7/B Am C7/G F Dm7

This system contains the first system of music. It features a vocal line with lyrics, a piano accompaniment with chords and a bass line, and a guitar accompaniment with chords and a bass line. The lyrics are: "fore you shall draw wa-ter with re - joic - ing from the springs of sal -". The piano accompaniment includes chords: C, G7/B, Am, C7/G, F, and Dm7. The guitar accompaniment includes chords: C, G7/B, Am, C7/G, F, and Dm7.

va - tion. And on that day you shall say, Give thanks to the Lord, and

ah, and

Gsus 4 G7/F Em7 Am C7/G F G7/F Em7 Amsus 4

This system contains the second system of music. It features a vocal line with lyrics, a piano accompaniment with chords and a bass line, and a guitar accompaniment with chords and a bass line. The lyrics are: "va - tion. And on that day you shall say, Give thanks to the Lord, and". The piano accompaniment includes chords: Gsus 4, G7/F, Em7, Am, C7/G, F, G7/F, Em7, and Amsus 4. The guitar accompaniment includes chords: Gsus 4, G7/F, Em7, Am, C7/G, F, G7/F, Em7, and Amsus 4.

Handbells

call up - on his Name;

call up - on his Name; ah ah

Dm7 Gsus 4 C F Csus 2 F

The first system of the musical score consists of four staves. The top staff is a vocal line with lyrics "call up - on his Name;". The second staff is another vocal line with lyrics "call up - on his Name; ah ah". The third and fourth staves are piano accompaniment, with the right hand playing chords and the left hand playing a rhythmic pattern. Above the piano part, the word "Handbells" is written, and there are notes on a staff above the piano part indicating handbell parts. Chord symbols Dm7, Gsus 4, C, F, Csus 2, and F are placed above the piano part.

Sure-ly, it is God who saves me; I will trust in him and not be a -

Sure-ly, it is God who saves me; I will trust in him and not be a -

C G/B Am C7/G F Dm7

The second system of the musical score consists of four staves. The top staff is a vocal line with lyrics "Sure-ly, it is God who saves me; I will trust in him and not be a -". The second staff is another vocal line with the same lyrics. The third and fourth staves are piano accompaniment, with the right hand playing chords and the left hand playing a rhythmic pattern. Chord symbols C, G/B, Am, C7/G, F, and Dm7 are placed above the piano part.

fraid. For the Lord is my strong-hold and my sure de-fense, and
fraid. For the Lord is my strong-hold and my sure de - fense, and

This system contains the vocal melody and piano accompaniment for the first system. The vocal line is in treble clef, and the piano accompaniment is in bass clef. The lyrics are: "fraid. For the Lord is my strong-hold and my sure de-fense, and" (first line) and "fraid. For the Lord is my strong-hold and my sure de - fense, and" (second line).

Genus 4 G7/F Em7 Am C7/G F G7/F Em7 Am sus 4

This system shows the piano accompaniment for the first system, including the right and left hand parts. Chord labels are placed above the right-hand staff: Genus 4, G7/F, Em7, Am, C7/G, F, G7/F, Em7, Am sus 4.

he will be my Sav - ior.
he will be my Sav - ior. Ah

This system contains the vocal melody and piano accompaniment for the second system. The vocal line is in treble clef, and the piano accompaniment is in bass clef. The lyrics are: "he will be my Sav - ior." (first line) and "he will be my Sav - ior. Ah" (second line).

Dm7 Genus 4 C F/C Genus 2

This system shows the piano accompaniment for the second system, including the right and left hand parts. Chord labels are placed above the right-hand staff: Dm7, Genus 4, C, F/C, Genus 2.

(may be sung by choir alone)

Make his deeds known a-mong the peo - ples; See that they re-mem-ber that his
Unison
Make his deeds known a-mong the peo - ples; See that they re-mem-ber that his

This system contains two vocal staves and a piano accompaniment staff. The vocal staves are in unison. The piano accompaniment consists of a right-hand part with chords and a left-hand part with a rhythmic pattern.

Am Em F G7

This system shows the piano accompaniment for the first system, including the right-hand and left-hand parts. The right-hand part features chords labeled Am, Em, F, and G7. The left-hand part has a steady rhythmic accompaniment.

Name is ex - alt - ed_ Sing the prais-es of the Lord, for he has done great things, and this is_ Div.
Name is ex - alt - ed_ Sing the prais-es of the Lord, for he has done great things, Ah _____

This system contains two vocal staves and a piano accompaniment staff. The vocal staves have lyrics. The piano accompaniment continues with the same rhythmic pattern as the first system.

C Dm7 C/E Am Em/G F D7 G Dm7/G

This system shows the piano accompaniment for the second system, including the right-hand and left-hand parts. The right-hand part features chords labeled C, Dm7, C/E, Am, Em/G, F, D7, G, and Dm7/G. The left-hand part continues with the rhythmic accompaniment.

known in all the world. Sure-ly it is God who saves me; I will

Sure-ly it is God who saves me; I will

Em/G G7 C G/B Am C7/G

The first system of the musical score consists of five staves. The top two staves are vocal lines with lyrics. The third staff is the bass line for the piano accompaniment. The fourth and fifth staves are the grand staff (treble and bass clefs) for the piano accompaniment. Chord symbols are placed below the piano accompaniment staves.

trust in him and not be a - fraid. For the Lord is my strong-hold and my

trust in him and not be a - fraid. For the Lord is my strong-hold and my

F Dm7 G7sus 4 G7/F Em7 Am

The second system of the musical score consists of five staves. The top two staves are vocal lines with lyrics. The third staff is the bass line for the piano accompaniment. The fourth and fifth staves are the grand staff (treble and bass clefs) for the piano accompaniment. Chord symbols are placed below the piano accompaniment staves.

sure de - fense, and he will be my Sav - ior.

sure de - fense, and he will be my Sav - ior. Ah

F Em7 Dm7 Gsus 4 C F/C

This system contains the first two vocal staves and the piano accompaniment. The piano part consists of a right-hand melody and a left-hand bass line. The lyrics are: "sure de - fense, and he will be my Sav - ior." and "sure de - fense, and he will be my Sav - ior. Ah". The piano accompaniment includes the following chords: F, Em7, Dm7, Gsus 4, C, and F/C.

Cry a - loud, in - hab - i - tants of Zi - on,

ah

Csus 2 F/C C G/B Am C7/G

This system contains the second two vocal staves and the piano accompaniment. The piano part continues with a right-hand melody and a left-hand bass line. The lyrics are: "Cry a - loud, in - hab - i - tants of Zi - on," and "ah". The piano accompaniment includes the following chords: Csus 2, F/C, C, G/B, Am, and C7/G.

Ring out your joy, for the great one in the

ah

F Dm7 Gsus 4 G7 Em Am C7

This system contains the first system of music. It features a vocal line with lyrics, a piano accompaniment with chords and a bass line, and a guitar accompaniment with chords and a bass line. The lyrics are "Ring out your joy, for the great one in the". A vocal line below the piano part has the word "ah" with a long note. The guitar part has chords: F, Dm7, Gsus 4, G7, Em, Am, C7.

midst of you is the Ho - ly One of Is - rael.

Ho - ly One of Is - rael. Ah

F C/E Dm7 G7sus 4 C F/C C F/C

This system contains the second system of music. It features a vocal line with lyrics, a piano accompaniment with chords and a bass line, and a guitar accompaniment with chords and a bass line. The lyrics are "midst of you is the Ho - ly One of Is - rael." and "Ho - ly One of Is - rael. Ah". The guitar part has chords: F, C/E, Dm7, G7sus 4, C, F/C, C, F/C.

Sure-ly, it is God who saves me; I will trust in him and not be a -
Sure-ly, it is God who saves me; I will trust in him and not be a -

C Em/B Am C7/G F Dm7

This system contains the first two vocal staves and the piano accompaniment. The piano part includes a treble clef staff with chords and a bass clef staff with a rhythmic accompaniment. Chord symbols are placed above the piano staff.

fraid. For the Lord is my strong-hold and my sure de-fense, and
fraid. For the Lord is my strong-hold and my sure de - fense, and

Caus 4 G7/F Em7 Am C7 F Em7

This system contains the second two vocal staves and the piano accompaniment. The piano part includes a treble clef staff with chords and a bass clef staff with a rhythmic accompaniment. Chord symbols are placed above the piano staff.

he will be my Sav - ior.

he will be my Sav - ior. Ah

Dm7 Gsus 4 C F C F

This system contains the first two vocal lines and the piano accompaniment. The vocal lines are in treble clef. The piano accompaniment is in bass clef. The lyrics are: "he will be my Sav - ior." and "he will be my Sav - ior. Ah". The piano accompaniment includes a bass line and a right-hand line with chords labeled Dm7, Gsus 4, C, F, C, and F.

Sure-ly it is God who saves me; I will trust in him and not be a -

Sure-ly it is God who saves me; I will trust in him and not be a -

C G/B Am C7/G F Dm7

This system contains the second two vocal lines and the piano accompaniment. The vocal lines are in treble clef. The piano accompaniment is in bass clef. The lyrics are: "Sure-ly it is God who saves me; I will trust in him and not be a -" and "Sure-ly it is God who saves me; I will trust in him and not be a -". The piano accompaniment includes a bass line and a right-hand line with chords labeled C, G/B, Am, C7/G, F, and Dm7.

fraid. For the Lord is my strong-hold and my sure de - fense, and

fraid. For the Lord is my strong-hold and my sure de - fense, and

Chorus 4 G7/F Em7 Am C7/G F G7/F Em7 Amsus 4

This system contains the first two vocal staves and the piano accompaniment. The piano part features a rhythmic pattern of eighth notes in the right hand and quarter notes in the left hand. Chord symbols are placed above the piano staff.

he will be my Sav - ior.

he will be my Sav - ior. Ah

Dm7 Chorus 4 C F/C Chorus 2 F/C

This system contains the second two vocal staves and the piano accompaniment. The piano part continues with the same rhythmic pattern. Chord symbols are placed above the piano staff.

THE FIRST SONG OF ISAIAH

Ecce, Deus

The congregation is asked to join the choir singing this refrain after each verse is sung:

ISAIAH 12: 2-6*

JACK NOBLE WHITE



Sure-ly, it is God who saves me; I will trust in him and not be a - fraid. For the



Lord is my strong-hold and my sure de-fense, and he will be my Sav - ior.

VERSE

Therefore you shall draw water with rejoicing
from the springs of salvation.
And on that day you shall say,
Give thanks to the Lord and call upon his Name;

REFRAIN

VERSE

Make his deeds known among the peoples;
see that they remember that his Name is exalted.
Sing the praises of the Lord, for he has done great things,
and this is known in all the world.

REFRAIN

VERSE

Cry aloud, inhabitants of Zion,
ring out your joy,
For the great one in the midst of you
is the Holy One of Israel.

REFRAIN (sung twice)

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