

Praise for *Our Hymns, Our Heritage*

It is my great pleasure to offer hearty, unqualified endorsement of *Our Hymns, Our Heritage*. The Leemans understand as few others the crucial importance of theological and musical education among children, but also for people of all ages. The marriage of great texts and timeless music is beyond calculation for how it informs a thoroughgoing and unshakable Christian worldview, and the Leemans achieve this lofty goal in exquisite ways, which makes their hymnal an unmatched treasure for all times and ages. As a concert pianist, Steinway Artist, and inductee to the Steinway Teacher Hall of Fame, but also deeply committed to transcendent Christian worship, I have enormous admiration for the accompaniments and their recordings available as supplements to this hymnal. They provide training of young pianists and singers as significant tools in the art of listening and accompanying, not to mention technical development. Every piano studio whose instructor values hymn-playing and the training of future accompanists should own this hymnal as both reference and resource for students.

Stephen Nielson | Concert Pianist

Our Hymns, Our Heritage represents the finest hymns ever written, both theologically and lyrically. They are hymns that every Christian should sing, memorize, and teach to their children and grandchildren. The accompanying information on the history of the hymn writers and guidance on key elements to focus on while singing the hymns is inspiring and so helpful. These hymns have stood the test of time because they are life-changing and life-giving and stand in stark contrast to so much of what is being taught and sung today.

Tony Jeffrey | Headmaster, Covenant Christian Academy, Colleyville, TX

I have been a huge fan of David and Barbara Leeman's work since I first bought their student hymnal and piano recordings several years ago while compiling the Charlotte Mason's Alveary curriculum. I love that the hymns are not from a single denomination. I have learned so many songs that I otherwise would never have been exposed to. The biographical and historical information the authors have compiled is so rich and adds much to the study of the hymns, and the Scripture and inspirational thoughts provided help children think deeply about the ideas they contain. When parents write in to ask if they really need another hymnal, our answer is always, "Yes! You need THIS one!"

Jennifer Spencer, EdD | Project Manager, Charlotte Mason's Alveary

The history of Christian music is 2,000 years deep and a whole world wide. This collection of carefully selected songs and hymns connects children and their parents with generations of Christian voices who have fallen silent yet still speak through the musical heritage preserved for us today. *Our Hymns, Our Heritage* is a must-have for family devotionals and a treasure to pass on to the next generation.

Janie B. Cheaney | Senior Writer, WORLD News Group

Psalm 145:4 proclaims, “One generation shall commend your works to another, and shall declare your mighty acts.” *Our Hymns, Our Heritage* reminds us that we stand on the spiritual shoulders of those who came before us, but equally challenges us to pass the faith once given on to the next generation. To this end, Barbara and David Leeman have given the church an extraordinary, multi-use resource. At one and the same time a hymnal, hymnal companion, and devotional guide, *Our Hymns, Our Heritage* seeks to foster the love of singing God’s praise for generations to come. I heartily commend this hymnal to churches, families, Christian schools, Sunday schools, choirs, and anyone who seeks to love the Lord with all their heart, mind, soul, and strength.

Colin Howland | Director of Music, Tenth Presbyterian Church, Philadelphia, PA

What a stewardship we have received in the church’s heritage of hymnody—a gift that we must not fail to pass on to the coming generations. That is why I am delighted that Barbara and David Leeman have edited this hymnal. While their intended audience is elementary children, believers of all ages will find soul-stirring edification in these pages. The Leemans offer us a twofold service. They have curated an excellent collection of many of the finest hymns in the English language, and they have provided brief, illuminating, devotional material to make these songs come alive in our hearts. I commend this excellent resource for families, churches, and schools, praying that the Lord would tune your hearts to sing his praise.

Matt Merker | Director of Training for Getty Music; hymn writer, “He Will Hold Me Fast;” author, *Corporate Worship*

We are always seeking ways to instill in our children the reality of how things are—that God is not a thing among things, but The Thing behind all things. “He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. For by Him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through Him and for Him” (Col. 1:15–16). Singing these truths in praise to God sets the imagination and the affections aflame. The special blessing here is how David and Barbara Leeman have artistically, comprehensively, and beautifully told this Grand Story to deeply engage hearts and minds in responsive praise to our Creator and Redeemer.

J. Marty Cope | Director of Music & Arts, Park Cities Presbyterian Church, Dallas, TX

Hymns are a great treasury of Christian faith and devotion. Previous generations of believers not only sang hymns in church on Sunday mornings, but carried private copies of their hymnals for personal use throughout the week. In *Our Hymns, Our Heritage*, David and Barbara Leeman long to give these riches to you, enabling you to carry the truths of these 120 hymns not just in your hymnal, but in your heart as well. May the Lord use this book in his church to make his praise glorious.

Matthew Westerholm | Associate Professor of Church Music and Worship, The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary; Executive Director, The Institute for Biblical Worship

DAVID & BARBARA LEEMAN

OUR
HYMNS,
OUR
Heritage

A HOSANNA HYMNAL

A STUDENT GUIDE TO
SONGS OF THE CHURCH

MOODY PUBLISHERS
CHICAGO

Our Hymns, Our Heritage A Student Guide to Songs of the Church

Compiled and written by Barbara and David Leeman

With contributions by Jonathan Leeman

Music Arrangements and Engraving: David Leeman

Editor Music Engraving: Mats Frendahl, Sweden

Additional Resources

Spiral-Bound Piano Accompaniment Book—Arrangements to Enhance Singing

Piano Recordings of All 120 Hymns on USB Flash Drive

Order from www.HosannaHymnnals.com

This book is dedicated to the children, faculty, and staff of Providence Christian School of Texas in Dallas, Texas, where Barbara Leeman taught music for twenty-three years.

It was their encouragement and support that inspired its creation.

Hymns are loved at Providence and are sung every week in chapel, and a hymn of the month is sung each morning in the classrooms.

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Foreword

In recent years we have had the privilege in life to become parents. And, though we have not worked as extensively as many in children's music, lately we have spent more time writing and reflecting on the subject since we now have four children of our own.

It is particularly unusual, given the fact that much children's literature today is story-driven, highly involved, complex, mystical, and requiring such intellectual commitment, that in comparison, much current children's theological teaching, songs and even worship to almighty God can be so simplistic and shallow rather than telling the ascendant and beautiful story of Christ. It is refreshing to see a book of hymns selected for children to sing that tell the gospel and teach complex biblical truths in a timeless way.

Our fellow countryman C.S. Lewis said, "No book is really worth reading at the age of ten which is not equally (and often far more) worth reading at the age of fifty." We believe the same is true of songs and singing.

We are so excited about the publication of this hymnbook for children. Our prayer is that our children will be singing theologically rich hymns such as the ones found here long after we are gone and will continue to pass them on from generation to generation.

Keith and Kristyn Getty

Preface

Our *Hymns, Our Heritage: A Student Guide to Songs of the Church* is written to acquaint students of all ages with a generous collection of our greatest hymns, both ancient and modern. We believe these are among the hymns every child—indeed, every Christian—should know. The target age is students ages nine to twelve; however, we know both younger and older students who use this book—even some senior adults! You should never stop being a student, especially about the truths and glory of God.

In Matthew 19:14 are the unique and powerful words of Jesus, “Let the little children come to me and do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of heaven.” Shortly after He said this, the children followed Him into the temple and cried out, “Hosanna to the Son of David!” The chief priests were indignant, telling Jesus to silence them. But He responded: “Have you never read, ‘Out of the mouth of infants and nursing babies you have prepared praise?’” (Matt. 21:16). Jeannette Threlfall retells this story in her hymn “Hosanna, Loud Hosanna,” No. 28. *Our Hymns, Our Heritage* is a collection of “hosannas” for students of every age to learn. This book was first published in 2014 under the title *Hosanna, Loud Hosannas*.

What is a hymn? We think it is a beautiful word, and you might think of it simply as a song about Him—our great God. We attempted to choose hymns that are some of the best expressions of worship that have ever been written. Since many Christian men and women wrote them over many centuries, this book is like a family picture album with great-great-great-grandparents you have never met, as well as gifted relatives who are still alive. If you never learn or sing these hymns, it is like never seeing these older relatives’ pictures. They are the treasured writings of saints through the ages and represent our Christian heritage. Our Christian family. The psalmist said, “Your testimonies are my *heritage* forever, for they are the joy of my heart” (Ps. 119:111, emphasis added). These hymns are the testimonies of people who knew (or know) the Word of God and put them in poetry to be sung.

The word *our* in the title communicates that these belong to the past *and* the present. Not all of them are old. Of 120 songs, twenty-five percent are new enough to still be under copyright laws, meaning they are less than ninety years old.

This is not a typical hymnal you would see at church. It includes biographical stories of each text author and tune composer. Each hymn's story page contains three parts: *Text*, *Tune*, and *As You Sing This Hymn*.

The *Text* portion describes the author of the words. Many things influence a hymn text, such as when and where the person lived, what school they attended, or life experiences with their family. In many of the stories, God used difficult circumstances to teach people about Himself. Pay attention to the dates as you may discover someone who wrote a hymn who was born on your birthday!

Tune is another word for melody. Often the melody has a history separate from the text. Different tunes can be used for the same text. An example is "Away in a Manger," for which two tunes are commonly sung, and in this book, you will find them both. Tunes are named for a variety of reasons: often for where the composer lived or for an emotion the tune evokes, such as ODE TO JOY. The tune names are always typed in SMALL CAPITAL LETTERS to set them apart from the text or hymn name.

Hymns declare what we believe about God, so it is very important when singing to think about what the words mean for your life. That is why each hymn story includes a section called *As you sing this hymn*. Perhaps a hymn will help you to pray and trust God more. Or maybe you will discover things for which to thank Him. Never sing thoughtlessly, but look for ways to apply each hymn text to your life in God.

As you turn your eyes to the right-hand side and look at the music, pay attention to two things. First, notice the Scripture verse under the title. It describes what Scripture truth the hymn may be based on. It's like a rope between the hymn text and your Bible. Second, notice that the melody line is on top, but sometimes there is a harmony line underneath. If you are singing with others, we encourage you to learn and sing the harmony as well as the melody, because it adds much beauty to the sound, and you will enjoy the hymn even more.

Although sometimes known as verses, we call the multiple paragraphs of the poem stanzas. To make it easier to follow the line of each stanza, every other one is in *italic* font.

Many people love hymns because they can sing them by memory at any time in any place. You don't have to be at church or in a school chapel. You can sing them with your family in the car. You can sing with friends any time. You can sing to your parents and grandparents. You can sing when you are happy or when you are sad. Hymns are friends to take with you anywhere because hymns are to and for God, and He is always everywhere. God bless you as you bring these 120 hymns into your heart and life. Sing them often and sing them as "loud Hosannas"!

To Parents and Grandparents

We love God. We love children and youth. We love hymns. We desire to bring the first two closer together with the help of the third.

Why is it essential that children sing hymns? Is anything wrong with the simple choruses often taught to children at church? We believe it is unfortunate if that is all they sing!

All children love what they know. If we teach our children mediocrity, they will love what is mediocre. If we teach them what is excellent, even if difficult, they will love what is excellent. The goal of this hymnal is to provide children with the best music that has been composed for them to sing praise to God. Zoltán Kodály, the Hungarian composer whose musical educational philosophy transformed music education in the twentieth century, said that "only art of intrinsic value is suitable for children."¹ He adds, "Let us take our children seriously! Everything else follows from this . . . only the best is good enough for a child."²

How do you choose essential hymns every child should sing? This may have been the most difficult part of putting this book together. We began with hymns that are common to hymnals of every denomination and age. Hymns like "Holy, Holy, Holy" are sung in churches worldwide. They have stood the test of time. We looked for texts that are particularly appealing to children, such as those with descriptive word pictures. But we did not shy away from hymns that are rich in theology and language. Finally, we looked for hymns that highlight and teach the gospel.

There are many popular hymns from the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries that are known as *gospel hymns* that were not chosen. This is not because they are not wonderful expressions of faith, but because the less formal style of the music does not always support the dignity of the text. Usually, these songs are not universally sung in all denominations or churches. However, we did include a brief collection of the uniquely African American gospel songs because of their important heritage. We also wanted the book to have broad appeal. We also chose about twenty-five written by women authors or composers.

Perhaps the most difficult choices concerned modern hymns since they have not yet stood the test of time and proven essential. We only chose modern hymns that are similar in style to the historical hymns, using multiple stanzas with congregationally singable melodies and rhythms.

With children in mind, we have arranged this hymnal differently than most hymnals. There are four main sections: *The Church Year*, beginning with Advent and Christmas hymns. Children relate to the baby Jesus, a child like them, and the wonderful Christmas story. The second section is simply *God Is*, with hymns that teach who God is—His attributes and the broad categories of what He does for us. *We Respond* offers hymns with which we may respond in praise, thanksgiving, confession, petition, testimony, commitment, and prayer. If you are choosing a hymn for your children, remember to point out the purpose of the hymn as listed at the top of the story page. This will assist them in singing with purpose, rather than simply because they like the song! Of course, the texts often overlap in content and theme, and many hymns could be included in all three sections. This edition from Moody Publishers adds a small selection of *Spirituals* and black gospel songs. They are all first-person expressions of prayer or petition to God and offer songs of lament for times of trouble.

We have taught hymns to children for over forty years and have countless stories to tell of them singing hymns at birthday parties, in the bathtub, in grocery store aisles and church aisles. Those children, in turn, have taught them to their three-year-old siblings and ninety-three-year-old grandparents. In fact, they have sometimes taught their parents to love hymns, too.

Why teach hymns to children? In studying hymns, children glean from a wide spectrum of knowledge. They learn Bible content and doctrine. They observe the hearts of godly men and women. They encounter a little world

history. And they imbibe the beauty of melody and harmony, poetry, and literature. A hymn is a treasure chest of learning. Some words, thoughts, and experiences they have not yet encountered, but their truths will serve them throughout life.

These songs will help students memorize the words of Bernard of Clairvaux, St. Francis of Assisi, Martin Luther, St. Augustine, Isaac Watts, the Wesleys, Fanny Crosby, Thomas Ken, and others. In so doing, they create a reference point in the pathways of their minds, construct a framework in the core of their spirits, lay a foundation in the soils of their souls. What is more, they will join their hearts and tongues to the centuries of saints worshipping Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

Martin Luther said that “next to the Word of God, the noble art of music is the greatest treasure in the world. It controls our thoughts, minds, hearts, and spirits.”³ It is wonderful that you are giving your child the gift of owning his or her own hymnal. Join your child in learning and singing these hymns, and so give your child the gift of placing these truths deep in their hearts. If they love these hymns, hopefully like you, they will pass them on to the next generation.

Barbara and David Leeman

Creator All Things Bright and Beautiful

TEXT: Cecil F. Alexander

b. 1818, Ballykean House, Redcross, Wicklow, Ireland

d. October 12, 1895, The Palace, Londonderry

(for more on Alexander, see No. 13)

Even as a child, Cecil loved to write poetry. But she was so afraid that her father, an officer in the British Royal Marines, would not approve that she hid her poems under the carpet! She was wrong, however. When he discovered them, he set aside an hour every Saturday to read her poems aloud. When Cecil grew up, she loved teaching children through her poetry. Before she married, she published *Verses for Holy Seasons* and *Hymns for Little Children* (1848), the latter of which includes her most famous work, “All Things Bright and Beautiful.”

Cecil married her parish minister, the Reverend William Alexander. He was appointed a bishop in Ireland and then the Primate of All Ireland. Although he was powerful and well-known in his lifetime, shortly before he died, he said that he would be remembered primarily as the husband of the poet who wrote “There Is a Green Hill Far Away” (her best-known poem of the time).³⁴

In her lifetime Mrs. Alexander wrote over four hundred hymns. She founded a school for the deaf with her older sister. She also established the Girls’ Friendly Society, an organization in the Episcopal Church which is still in operation around the world today.

Mrs. Alexander wrote “All Things Bright and Beautiful” to help children understand the first line of the Apostles’ Creed, “I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth.” She is believed to have written this poem in a castle in Ireland called Markree Castle.

TUNE: English melody, 17th c.

ROYAL OAK is an English melody dating back to the seventeenth century that first appeared in *The Dancing Master* (1686). It was put to the words of this hymn by Martin Shaw, an English musician who worked in the theater and was a church organist at the well-known St. Martin-in-the-Fields.

As you sing this hymn . . . you cannot help but picture your favorite animals, birds, and many other creation details. The language is so beautiful that you can almost smell the flowers, hear the river, and feel the wind. Of all people who love creation, Christians should love it the most because, through God’s Son, Jesus, they have a personal relationship with the Creator! So whenever you get a chance to spend time in the glories of nature, don’t just say, “Wow!” but sing out loud, “All things bright and beautiful, O Lord, You made it all!”

All Things Bright and Beautiful

48

*You have made heaven, the heaven of heavens,
with all their host, the earth and all that is on it, the seas
and all that is in them, and You preserve all of them.*

NEHEMIAH 9:6



2. The pur - ple head - ed moun - tains, the riv - er run - ning by,
3. The cold wind in the win - ter, the pleas - ant sum - mer sun,
4. The tall trees in the green - wood, the mead - ows where we play,
5. He gave us eyes to see them, and lips that we might tell



the sun - set, and the morn - ing that bright - ens up the sky.
the ripe fruits in the gar - den, He made them, ev - 'ry one.
the flow - ers by the wa - ter we gath - er ev - 'ry day.
how great is God Al - might - y, Who has made all things well.

TEXT: Cecil F. Alexander

ROYAL OAK

TUNE: English melody, 17th c.

Creator This Is My Father's World

TEXT: Maltbie Davenport Babcock

b. August 3, 1858, Syracuse, New York
d. May 18, 1901, Naples, Italy

Maltbie Babcock loved to take long walks in the beautiful New York countryside between Lake Erie and Lake Ontario and would often tell his wife or coworkers, "I'm going out to see my Father's world!"³⁵ From those walks blossomed a sixteen-stanza poem, with each stanza beginning, "This is my Father's world."

Babcock was a gifted young man. He was an expert swimmer, the captain of a baseball team, an excellent fisherman. A top student at Syracuse University, he directed the university orchestra and glee club, played several instruments, and composed music. He became a pastor, serving near Niagara Falls in New York, in Maryland, and The Brick Presbyterian Church in New York. While there, his congregation gave him the gift of a trip to Israel. En route to Italy, Babcock became ill and died. After his death, his wife Catherine collected his poems and published them. Babcock never knew that his poem would become the beloved hymn it is today.

TUNE: Franklin L. Sheppard

b. August 7, 1852, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
d. February 15, 1930, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Sheppard was valedictorian of his 1872 graduating class at the University of Pennsylvania. In 1915, he edited a Presbyterian songbook called *Alleluia*. For the hymnal, Sheppard set to music the poem of his close friend, Rev. Babcock. Sheppard believed the tune was inspired by an English melody his mother sang to him as a child. *TERRA BEATA* means "blessed earth."

As you sing this hymn . . . ask yourself if God is your Father. Babcock writes, "This is my Father's world." To see the world as this poet does, God has to become *your* Father through repentance and faith in Christ. Everyone can see the beauty and wonder of nature, but some do not know the Father because they do not know the Son (John 14:6). The heavens declare the glory of God to the Christian and the non-Christian alike, but only Christians join with the heavens by giving glory to God, or clap their hands like the trees of the field (see Ps. 19:1; Isa. 55:12). He "speaks to us everywhere" only when we have ears that are tuned to God through Christ.

It is clear from stanza 3 that Babcock is under no illusions about this world's trials and sinful temptations. He is no head-in-the-clouds dreamer. Instead, he is confident the person and work of Christ will reconcile all things: "The battle is not done; Jesus who died shall be satisfied, and earth and heaven be one!" The God who creates is the God who redeems. It is all His.

This Is My Father's World

49

*Sovereign Lord, who made the heaven and the earth
and the sea and everything in them.*

ACTS 4:24



1. This_ is my Fa-ther's world, and_ to my lis- t'ning ears,
2. *This_ is my Fa-ther's world,* *the_ birds their car- ols raise,*
3. This_ is my Fa-ther's world, O_ let me ne'er for- get



all na- ture sings, and_ round me rings the mu- sic of the_ spheres.
the morn- ing light, the_ lil- y white, de- clare_ their Ma- ker's_ praise.
that though the wrong seems oft so strong, God is_ the Rul- er_ yet.



This is my Fa-ther's world: I_ rest me in the thought
This is my Fa-ther's world: He_ shines in all that's fair;
This is my Fa-ther's world: the_ bat- tle is not done;



of rocks and trees, of_ skies and seas; His hands the won- ders_ wrought.
in the rus- tling grass I_ bear Him pass, He speaks to me ev- ery- where.
Je- sus Who died shall be sat- is- fied, and earth and heav'n be_ one.

TEXT: Maltbie Davenport Babcock

TERRA BEATA

TUNE: Franklin L. Sheppard

Creator How Great Thou Art

TEXT: Stuart Hine || b. July 25, 1899, London, England
d. March 14, 1989, Essex, England

Carl Boberg (1859–1940), a pastor in Sweden, found himself stuck in a thunderstorm while out in the country. After it passed and sunlight and singing birds again surrounded him, he wrote a poem, “O Store Gud,” which means, “O Great God.” Years later, he heard his poem being sung to a Swedish folk tune. In 1907, it was translated into German and then in 1912 into Russian, appearing with nine stanzas. An English missionary to Russia, Stuart Hine, heard it and was so moved he translated the first two stanzas, expanding the words using his own experience in the Carpathian Mountains of Eastern Europe. Hine also paraphrased the third stanza to reflect his joy in salvation and then added a fourth stanza on his return to Great Britain while contemplating his true home in heaven. The song eventually found its way to India, where a man named J. Edwin Orr heard it and brought it to California. It was there that it came to the attention of a music publisher called Manna Music, who got permission from Mr. Hine to publish it.

“How Great Thou Art” became well-known through the singing of George Beverly Shea of the Billy Graham Association. He sang it ninety-nine times at the 1957 New York Crusade. From there it spread throughout the world. It has been repeatedly selected as Great Britain’s number-one favorite hymn.

TUNE: Swedish folk melody, arr. Stuart Hine, 1949 ||

OSTORE GUD, the original Swedish poem by Mr. Boberg, became connected to a Swedish folk melody sometime after the poem was written. Stuart Hine, who translated the song into English, also harmonized that melody. Hine had written many hymn tunes. This one, by far, became the most famous.

As you sing this hymn . . . you are first acknowledging that this world and its wonders are not here by accident. Some deny that God created the universe, but they do this to avoid submitting to Him (see Ps. 14:1). But with this hymn, you acknowledge God as Creator and Lord. You also declare Him as Savior through His Son Jesus, who died and rose for you. And finally, you affirm that He will one day stop history to return and bring His people to the place that is truly home.

In this song, you will repeat the phrase “How Great Thou Art” seventeen times! As you do, think of how fantastic creation is, the woods and the mountains, and then consider your salvation and the promise of glory. Now, sing not just *about* God, but directly *to* God. Let your own volume thunder and flow, as the chorus says, from your very soul.

How Great Thou Art

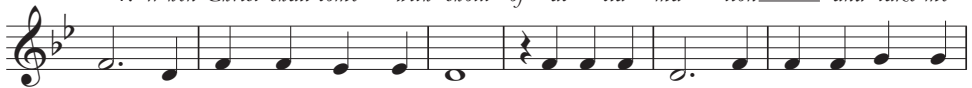
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Great is the LORD and greatly to be praised.

PSALM 48:1



1. O Lord my God, when I in awe-some won - der_____ con-sid-er
2. *When through the woods and for - est glades I wan - der_____ and bear the*
3. And when I think that God, His Son not spar - ing,_____ sent Him to
4. *When Christ shall come with shout of ac - cla - ma - tion_____ and take me*



all the worlds Thy hands have made, I see the stars, I hear the roll - ing
birds sing sweet - ly in the trees, when I look down from loft - y moun - tain
 die, I scarce can take it in, that on the cross, my bur-den glad - ly
home, what joy shall fill my heart! Then I shall bow in hum-ble a - do-*



thun - der,_____ Thy power through - out the u - ni-verse dis - played.
gran - deur,_____ and bear the brook and feel the gen - tle breeze;
 bear - ing,_____ He bled and died to take a - way my sin.
ra - tion,_____ and there pro - claim, my God, how great Thou art.



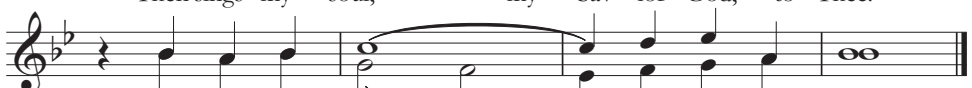
Then sings my soul, my Sav - ior God, to Thee;



how great Thou art, _____ how great Thou art!



Then sings my soul, my Sav - ior God, to Thee:



how great Thou art, _____ how great Thou art!

* Author's original words are "works," "mighty," and "shall I bow"

TEXT: Stuart K. Hine

O STORE GUD

TUNE: Swedish folk melody, adapt. and arr. Stuart K. Hine

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