

Four Verses on
Amazing Grace
Setting for Organ



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*Four Verses on
Amazing Grace*

Setting for Organ

Notes

Four Verses on Amazing Grace presents a pentatonic hymn tune, **New Britain**, that was first published in **Virginia Harmony** in 1831. It can be found in other hymn tune anthologies bearing different names, i.e., *Harmony Grove*, *Symphony*, *Solon*, and/or *Redemption*. Its origins are found in early American folk music and deeply rooted in Anglo-European folk cultures.

In this setting, the four variations follow a brief introduction. The third verse modulates to a new tonic key and is bolstered by dancing triplet figurations. A richly harmonized fourth variation returns to the original tonic key, with the hymn tune presented in the alto voice; the melody can be clarified by playing soprano, tenor and pedal (i.e. bass) lines with a lightly detached touch. The introduction reappears as a codetta to round out these four variations.

Like many of its companion settings, presentations of hymn tune phrases in **Amazing Grace** can be sung by unison or part voices, or reinforced by instrumental ensembles. The fourth verse would be greatly enhanced by the addition of a distinctive soloist, or by unison choral voices doubling the alto line.

N.B. The accompanimental figurations in the third verse might present unusual technical challenges that can be alleviated — if necessary — by omitting the variation, along with its framing modulatory transitions (from meas. 41 through 73).

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Four Verses on Amazing Grace

"Amazing grace, how sweet the sound"

(Pentatonic melody from *Virginia Harmony*, 1831)

Setting for Organ
Ennis Fruhauf

Andante

The musical score consists of five staves of organ music. Staff 1 (treble) starts with a 'lilting' feel, indicated by a wavy line above the staff. Staff 2 (bass) provides harmonic support. Staff 3 (bass) begins at measure 6 with a dynamic of *poco f*. Staff 4 (bass) begins at measure 12. Staff 5 (bass) begins at measure 17. Various dynamics and performance instructions like 'poco ritardando' and 'a tempo' are included.

Four Verses on Amazing Grace

a tempo

23 , *fassai*

l.h. *sempre leggiero*

mp Ped. *détaché* sim.

30

36 *ritardando poco a poco*

quasi a tempo

poco ritard.

Meno mosso

[8', w/ Celestes ad lib.]

poco f

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45

poco *f*

49

53

57

p

poco *f*

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61

poco ritard.

[16, 8, 4' Flues, *ad lib.* 8' Oboe]

65

poco f

poco f

71

allargando poco a poco

a tempo

Sop. *sempre leggiero*

N.B. * Sop. voice: *leggiero*

+ Hymn tune in alto voice: *quasi legato*

poco f

1.h. *sempre détaché*

77

sim.

Ped. *détaché*

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5

82

Ped. détaché

86

Sop. sempre leggiero
l.h. sempre leggiero

90

r i t a r d a n d o
leggiero *poco rallentando* *meno mosso*

94

quasi a tempo
ritardando al fine

l.h. sempre détaché

poco f



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