

The Music of

Lowell Mason for Solo Piano

Arranged by

Stan Pethel

Jubilate M U S I C

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Lowell Mason

The year was 1838. The board of Boston Public Schools was set to vote on whether to include vocal music in the curriculum. Advocates stated that vocal music would "expand the chest and thereby strengthen the lungs and vital organs." There was no mention of the value of music to American culture and individual enrichment.

The measure passed and music was added to the curriculum in Boston's public schools. Lowell Mason (1792–1872) was appointed Superintendent of the new music program, a position he held until 1841. Thus, the honorary title of the "Father of Music Education" has been given to Lowell Mason.

Mason championed a more European musical style for hymns over that of early American hymn writers. This was different from composers such as William Billings (1746–1800) and William Walker (1809-1875) and his *Southern Harmony* publication.

Over the course of his career Mason wrote over 1600 hymn tunes, many of which are still in use today and included in this collection. His hymnal, published by the Handel and Haydn Society of Boston was a major sales success with distribution far beyond New England.

Mason learned to play several instruments as a young man and studied music composition with prominent composers of his day, such as Oliver Shaw. Mason's career included a stint in Savannah, Georgia, as a business man and banker, but primarily in Boston, and later in New York City as a musician. In fact, Lowell Mason was the recipient of the first ever honorary doctor of music degree in America from Yale University.

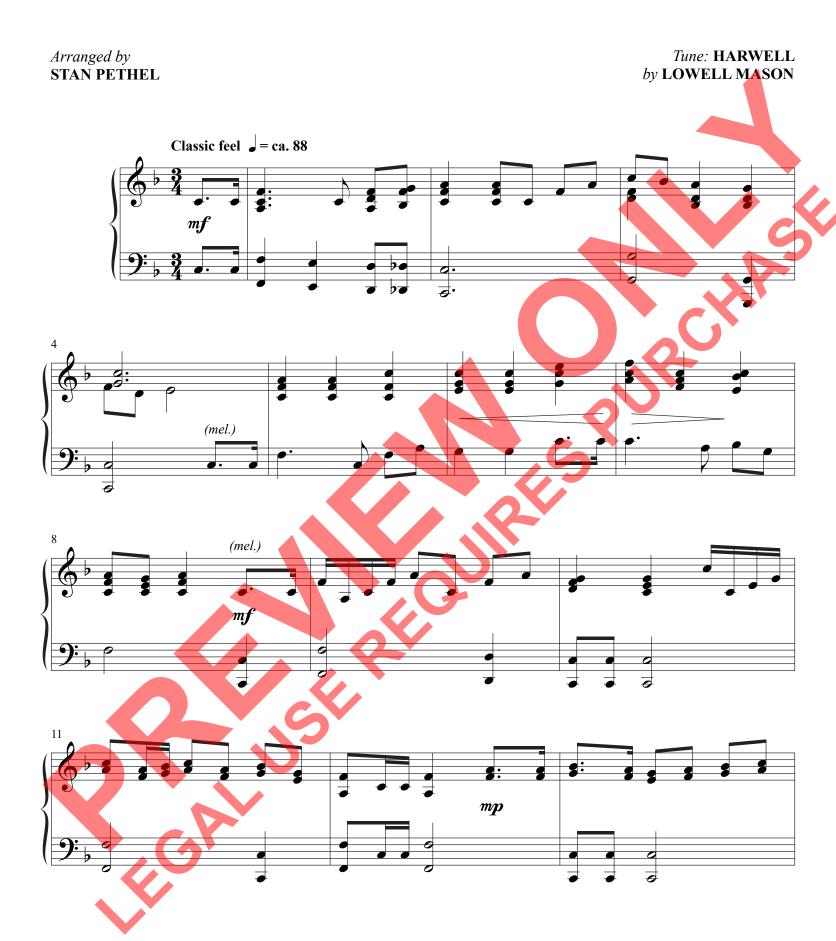
It is largely due to the efforts of Lowell Mason that today's school choirs, bands, jazz ensembles, and orchestras are so prevalent in education today. Where would music be without that early and in-depth training?

Here are some settings of tunes by Lowell Mason in a variety of styles—just a tribute to the "Father of Music Education."

- Stan Pethel

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THE LIGHT OF GOD IS FALLING





NEARER, MY GOD, TO THEE

Arranged by STAN PETHEL

Tune: BETHANY by LOWELL MASON



THERE IS A FOUNTAIN

Arranged by STAN PETHEL

Tune: CLEANSING FOUNTAIN by LOWELL MASON



A CHARGE TO KEEP I HAVE





O FOR A THOUSAND TONGUES TO SING

Arranged by **STAN PETHEL**

Tune: AZMON by LOWELL MASON





MY FAITH LOOKS UP TO THEE



WHEN I SURVEY THE WONDROUS CROSS





BLEST BE THE TIE THAT BINDS

Arranged by STAN PETHEL

Tune: DENNIS by LOWELL MASON





WORK, FOR THE NIGHT IS COMING

Arranged by STAN PETHEL

Tune: WORK SONG by LOWELL MASON



