

Church Music Society

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HYMN FESTIVALS  
AND  
HYMN PRACTICES  
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## HYMN FESTIVALS AND HYMN PRACTICES

THE recent hymn festivals and lecture-practices arranged by the Church Music Society have attracted much attention; and questions have been received from various parts of England asking how they can be organized in distant country districts where only local talent is available. A few practical suggestions with regard to their preparation and performance may therefore be helpful.

*Hymn Festivals.*—During the summer of 1917 several parishes in the neighbourhood of Cirencester practised some 20 hymns chosen for the purpose by Sir Henry Hadow, and on a Sunday evening in August 900 people, members of choirs and congregations, assembled to sing them under his direction. Since then, similar festivals have been held at Gloucester and elsewhere; and the Committee of the Church Music Society think that the plan might be adopted in many country districts, and that the help of organizers of the music competitions which were held in most parts of England before the war could be enlisted for the purpose. The objects are to encourage congregational singing, and to make known the best hymns and tunes in our hymn-books, as, in many cases, these are seldom or never sung. The first thing is to choose from 12 to 20 good hymns from whichever collection is the most widely used in the neighbourhood, or to buy some of the leaflet hymns or small collections now available. The hymns should all be practised in unison, and some verses should

be marked to be sung by women's and boys' voices, some by men only. To secure further variety, a picked choir might be asked to prepare one verse of each hymn in 4-part harmony. If the hymns are sung naturally and simply, almost as they would be said, there will be no difficulty about the pace, and a combined rehearsal an hour before the service should be enough to secure unanimity; but of course it is better if the organists and choir-masters from the various churches can meet after the selection has been made, play the tunes over, and discuss any difficult points; and it is better still if the conductor or his deputy can attend a rehearsal in each place a week or two before the festival. It is difficult to sing a large number of hymns straight through without a break, so it will be advisable to arrange a simple lecture on the history or characteristics of some of the hymns during an interval; or to have an organ interlude with some such pieces as Sir Hubert Parry's arrangements of well-known hymn tunes or Mr. Harvey Grace's 'Martyrs'. In country districts a time must be chosen when country people can come; therefore seed-time, or the hay harvest and the corn harvest, and in some places the fruit-picking seasons, must be avoided. One district will find a Sunday afternoon the most convenient, if the distances are not too far to enable congregations to return to their own parishes in time for Evensong. In another place a week-day afternoon or evening will be better; but it can best be settled by a conference of representatives from the various churches that are to take part.

*Hymn Practices.*—These are usually held to familiarize congregations with less-known tunes, and not to perform what has been already learnt. It is well to have, if possible, a short preliminary lecture on some such subject as (a) our national or traditional tunes; (b) the different characteristics of English, Scotch, Irish, or Welsh melodies; (c) the 16th, 17th, or 18th century hymn-writers; (d) what constitutes a good tune, &c.; and the subject can be illustrated by the hymns to be sung afterwards. The Church Music Society's hymn festival book has been sold out, and cannot be republished; so it may be useful to conclude with a list of suitable music.



# From Hymns Ancient and Modern

NO.	FIRST WORDS.	NAME OF TUNE.
*3.	Awake, my soul }	Commandments
*201.	Where high }	
*8.	Forth in Thy Name . . .	Angels
*53.	Hark the glad sound . . .	Bristol
*149.	Thou art gone up (2nd tune) . . .	Old 25th
*166.	All people }	Old 100th
*516.	Before Jehovah's awful Throne }	
167.	O worship the King . . .	Old 104th
*171.	From highest Heav'n . . .	Old 113th
*182.	Jesu, grant me this . . .	Canterbury
*205.	Thou Judge . . .	Southwell
*216.	What time . . .	Old 44th
262.	Great Mover . . .	Chapel Royal
369.	Thine arm, O Lord . . .	S. Matthew (original form)
373.	God moves in a mysterious way . . .	London New
*375.	Great King of nations . . .	Old 137th
*377.	In grief and fear . . .	Salisbury
*414.	Lo! from the desert homes . . .	Croft's 148th
431.	Disposer Supreme . . .	Hanover
*439.	The Son of God . . .	Old 81st and S. Anne
484.	Christians, sing out . . .	Ps. 118
487.	The Son of Man . . .	Irish
*495.	Weep not for Him . . .	Old Martyrs
*504.	The Lord is risen . . .	Narenza
512.	O God of Jacob . . .	Martyrdom
546.	Ye holy Angels bright . . .	Darwall's 148th

N.B.—The tunes marked \* gain immensely in dignity and interest if sung in their original rhythm: this is given in the 1904 edition to Angels, Old 100th, Old 137th, and Old 81st.

The above tunes are arranged for 4-part harmony; for unison singing several of them need to be transposed into a lower key. Unfortunately the book which contained a large number of transposed hymns from H. A. & M. is now out of print.

In long hymns variety can be obtained by the sparing and judicious use of varied accompaniments; a book of 'Varied harmonies for organ accompaniments' to 36 hymns from H. A. & M. is published by Messrs. Clowes at 5s. Sir Charles Stanford's settings of the Old 100th and Old 104th, and Dr. Charles Wood's Hanover will repay study.

# From the English Hymnal

NO.	FIRST WORDS.	NAME OF TUNE.
3.	Behold the Bridegroom cometh . . .	Tallis' 2nd Mode Melody
+77.	Lord Jesus . . .	Southwell
87.	Saviour, when in dust . . .	Aberystwyth
93.	The God of love . . .	University
108.	Who is this . . .	Ebenezer
135.	Love's redeeming work . . .	Savannah
200.	Joy and triumph . . .	Psalm 42
212.	I bind unto myself . . .	St. Patrick
234.	O light of light . . .	Whitehall
259.	Forth in thy name . . .	Angel's Song
268.	God, that madest earth . . .	Ar hyd y nos
290.	Fair waved . . .	Selma
297.	The spacious firmament . . .	London
344.	Thine for ever . . .	Horsham
352.	Father of spirits . . .	Old 124th
354.	Hear what the Voice . . .	Wigton
438.	Love of the Father . . .	Song 22
468.	Peace, perfect peace . . .	Song 46
470.	Praise, my soul . . .	Goss' Praise my Soul
485.	Teach me . . .	Sandys
505.	Thy way . . .	Psalm 32
557.	From foes . . .	Isleworth
561.	Lord, while for all mankind . . .	Aberdeen
+562.	O God of earth . . .	King's Lynn
574.	I heard the voice . . .	Kingsfold
599.	Jesu, tender Shepherd . . .	Shipston
611.	When Christ was born . . .	Rodmell

## Church Music Society's Leaflets

All joyous in the realms of day . . . Croft's Easington, with faux-bourdon. 2d.

I could not do without Thee }  
 O Jesus, I have promised }  
 O Jesu, Thou art standing }  
 City of God } Richmond, with faux-  
 Praise to the Holiest } bourdon. 1d.  
 Brief life . . . Devonshire. 1d.



## English Hymnal Leaflets

FIRST WORDS.	NAME OF TUNE.
8s. per 100	
For all the Saints . . . . .	<i>Sine nomine</i>
Eternal Ruler . . . . .	Gibbons's Song 1
4s. per 100	
Most glorious Lord . . . . .	Lawes' Farley Castle
He who would valiant be . . . . .	Monks Gate
God be with you . . . . .	Randolph
The King of Love . . . . .	S. Columba
The Advent of our God . . . . .	S. Thomas

All the leaflets can be obtained from Mr. H. MILFORD,  
1 Amen Corner, E.C. 4.

## Complete Books

(A) *Twenty missionary hymns with tunes. S.P.C.K. 6d. Words only, 1d. (Suitable for ordinary gatherings.)*

NO.	FIRST WORDS.	NAME OF TUNE.
1.	Fling out the banner . . . . .	Gonfalon Royal
†2.	Spirit Divine . . . . .	Richmond
3.	Lord of the harvest . . . . .	Martins
4.	Tell it out . . . . .	<i>Ministres de l'Éternel</i>
5.	Judge eternal . . . . .	Rhuddlan
6.	The Lord is King . . . . .	<i>Lasst uns erfreuen</i>
7.	The Lord will come . . . . .	Old 107th
†8.	Thy Kingdom come . . . . .	Irish
†9.	The Church of God . . . . .	S. Stephen
10.	O Thou Who camest . . . . .	S. Sepulchre
11.	O Thou through suffering . . . . .	Wesley's Bristol
12.	Father Whose will . . . . .	Metzler's Redhead
13.	O Christ the Life . . . . .	Brockham
14.	Revive Thy work . . . . .	Carlisle
15.	Spread, O spread . . . . .	Savannah
16.	Almighty Father . . . . .	Affection
17.	Let all the world . . . . .	High Road
18.	O brother man . . . . .	Welwyn
19.	Saviour, sprinkle . . . . .	Hyfrydol
20.	Send forth the Gospel . . . . .	Truro

(B) *British Hymn Festival Book. Curwen. 9d.*

NO.	FIRST WORDS.	NAME OF TUNE.
†1.	O God of earth and altar . . . . .	King's Lynn
2.	Through the night . . . . .	Marching
3.	Brief life . . . . .	Devonshire
4.	Songs of praise . . . . .	Riley
5.	God be with you . . . . .	Randolph
6.	The God of love . . . . .	University
7.	Sing Alleluia forth . . . . .	Martins
8.	Jesu, the very thought . . . . .	Chalk Farm
9.	When I survey . . . . .	Rockingham, with faux-bourdon
10.	Ten thousand times . . . . .	Gresham
11.	Happy are they . . . . .	Binchester
12.	For all the Saints . . . . .	<i>Sine nomine</i>
13.	Thy Kingdom come . . . . .	Irish
14.	Hills of the North . . . . .	Little Cornard

(C) *Laus Deo. S.P.C.K. 1s. Boards, 1s. 6d.*

†1.	Rejoice, O Land . . . . .	Wareham
2.	O God of love . . . . .	Hedsor
3.	Lift up your heads . . . . .	Monmouth and Harwood
4.	Almighty Who dost reign . . . . .	Abbeville and David's Harp
5.	O praise the Lord . . . . .	S. Gall
6.	With Glory clad . . . . .	Warrington
7.	O Lord our God . . . . .	Labour and Sorrow
8.	O valiant hearts . . . . .	Limpsfield
9.	Father of all . . . . .	Beaurevoir
10.	Hear what the Voice . . . . .	S. André
11.	Lord of all life . . . . .	Vicenza
12.	Throughout the whole earth . . . . .	Sedgeford and Odency
13.	Land of our love . . . . .	Tabor and Henriville
14.	Lift up your hearts . . . . .	Old 124th
15.	Judge eternal . . . . .	Picardy
16.	The Lord will come . . . . .	Old 107th
17.	Hark the Song . . . . .	Mons
18.	O brother man . . . . .	Intercessor
19.	These things shall be . . . . .	Eisenach
20.	My soul, there is a country . . . . .	<i>Christus, der ist mein Leben</i>
21.	God save the King . . . . .	National Anthem
22.	God bless our native land . . . . .	National Anthem
23.	Father, we bring our dead . . . . .	High Wood



(D) *Hymn Service for the Holy Communion.* S.P.C.K. 3d.  
*Accompaniments, 9d.*

N.B.—This is not so suitable as the first three, because it has been compiled for use at Celebrations only. It includes, however, several general hymns, and where it is about to be introduced, a hymn practice would be a good way of making the tunes known.

NO.	FIRST WORDS.	NAME OF TUNE.
†1.	Come let us join . . . .	Bristol
2.	Lord God the Holy Ghost . . .	Selma
3.	This is the day . . . .	Sandys
4.	To Christ the Prince . . . .	S. Thomas
†5.	Life and strength . . . .	Merton
6.	O Jesu, Thou the beauty art . .	Crediton
7.	They whose course . . . .	Savannah
8.	Through the night . . . .	Marching
†9.	Praise to the Holiest . . . .	Richmond
10.	And now, O Father . . . .	Gibbons's Song 1
11.	May the Grace . . . .	S. Nicholas
12.	Behold the Lamb . . . .	S. John
13.	Alleluia! sing to Jesus . . . .	Wesley's Alleluia
14.	Praise, my soul . . . .	Goss' Praise my Soul
15.	For all the Saints . . . .	<i>Sine nomine</i>

N.B.—The tunes marked † might have one verse sung to a faux-bourdon where there is a quartet of trained voices. The faux-bourbons are in the Tenor Tune-book published by the Faith Press, 22 Buckingham Street, W.C. 2. Each can be obtained on a separate leaflet at 10d. a dozen.

*In Uniform Style. Price 2d.*

1. MUSIC IN VILLAGE CHURCHES. By A MEMBER OF THE CHURCH MUSIC SOCIETY.
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