## CJ Madsen

# Tree of Life, Rod of Iron

A Sacred Choral Work for SATB Soli, SATB Choir, Piano, and Audience

CJ MADSEN MUSIC



**CJ Madsen (b. 1993)** 

Christopher Jed "CJ" Madsen is a secondyear doctoral student at the University of Arizona, emphasis in choral conducting. CJ recently received a Masters of Music degree from Brigham Young University (BYU), in Provo, Utah, with an emphasis in choral conducting. He also received a bachelor's degree in piano performance from BYU.

As a composer and arranger, CJ has had his works performed by University of Arizona Symphonic Choir and all five of BYU's choral ensembles. CJ's most recent large work, an opera entitled *He Shall Prepare a Way*, was staged in April 2022 and released as an album and concert video. In addition, CJ is the composer of *One Fold, One Shepherd*, a sacred work for choir and orchestra released in 2019.

CJ grew up in West Jordan, Utah, and was a volunteer missionary for The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints from 2012 to 2014 in North Carolina. Much of CJ's inspiration as a conductor, composer, and pianist come from his belief in Christ, his passion for people, his thirst for powerful music, and his love for his wife (Samm) and four children (Hollis, Charlotte, Jonathan, and Taran). For more information, see CJMadsenMusic.com.

#### **Note from the Composer**

This is a 45-minute, nine-movement work for SATB Choir, soloists, and piano about the Tree of Life vision seen by Lehi and Nephi (c. 598 B.C.) in *The Book of Mormon: Another Testament of Jesus Christ.* The purposes of this work are to help build faith in Jesus Christ and to share a cool story from an amazing book with those who may/may not be familiar with the book or with Latter-day Saints in general.

The work can be performed by any of the following configurations, using this score:

- 1. Vocal solo singing melody and piano
- 2. Vocal quartet
- 3. Vocal quartet and choir

The piece is designed for adaptability, depending on the forces and skill level of the ensemble. Practice tracks, libretto, supertitles, and other helps are available on my website. There are also versions of each movement with simpler piano parts.

The piece is built around a beloved Latter-day Saint hymn "The Iron Rod." Each of the first eight movements incorporates into the melodic motifs one of the eight phrases from the hymn, with the last movement actually including the hymn text and tune itself. In fact, one of the most crucial parts of the work is that of the audience part, which occurs three times in the final movement. If possible, it is encouraged that the director should take 5 minutes at the beginning of the performance to teach this part to the audience. This can be easily done by projecting the part on a slide projector or printing it in the score. The director may also be able to teach the audience by rote – it ain't that long.  $\Theta$ 

The soprano soloist sings the words of Nephi. I gave Nephi's words to a soprano to show the applicability of his words to all people, but as the needs of individual circumstance dictates, a tenor can sing the solo part instead. The same goes for other roles that can be sung up/down the octave.

I hope a performances of this work conveys the hope and joy that the Iron Rod, the Tree of Life – even Jesus Christ – is within our reach – as well as all the hope and joy that accompanies Him.

for Bass (Lehi), SATB Choir, and Piano





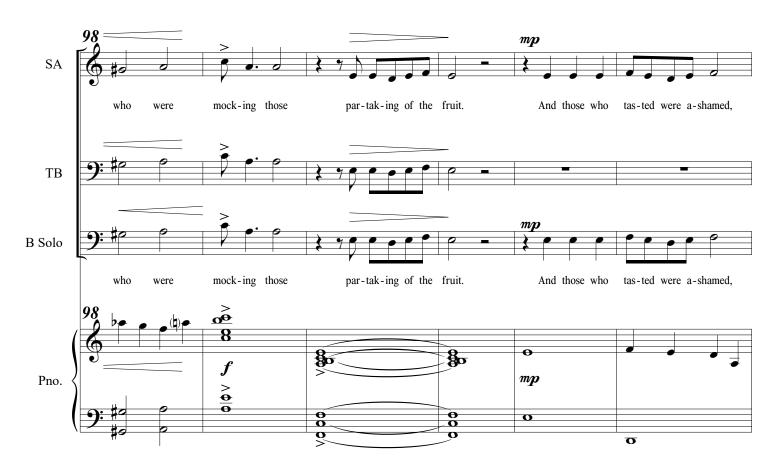


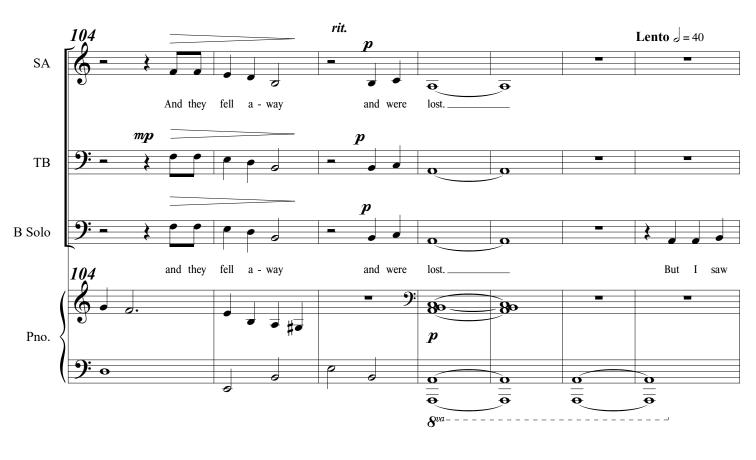


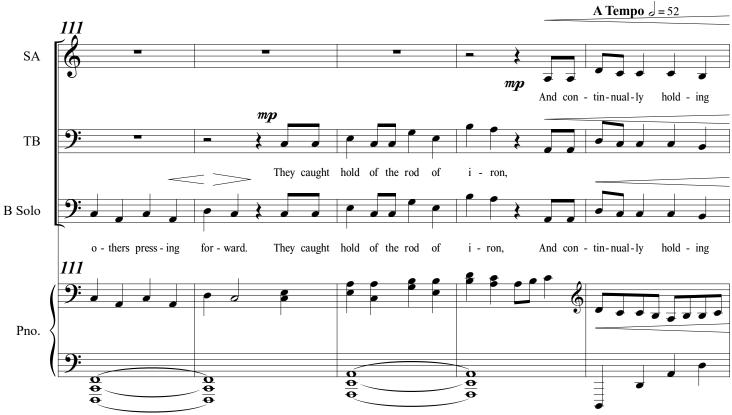
























May 17, 2023 Tucson, Arizona

## 01.5. I Was Desirous

for Soprano (Nephi) and Piano

1 Nephi 9:1; 10:4, 17 CJ Madsen

Soprano: And all these things did my father Lehi see, and hear, and speak unto his family.
And he spake of a prophet whom the Lord God would raise up among the Jews – even a Messiah, a Savior of the world.



Soprano: And it came to pass that I, Nephi, having heard all the words of my father, concerning the things which he saw in a vision – I, Nephi was desirous that I might see, and hear, and know of these things.

rit.



May 4, 2023 Tucson, Arizona

## 02. The Power of the Holy Ghost

for Soprano (Nephi), SATB Choir, and Piano

1 Nephi 10:17-19

CJ Madsen



















Pno.



May 18, 2023 Tucson, Arizona

# 02.5. Caught Away in the Spirit

for Soprano (Nephi) and Piano

1 Nephi 11:1, 14 CJ Madsen



Soprano: ...was able to make them known unto me, as I sat pondering in mine heart, I was caught away in the Spirit of the Lord,



Soprano: ...yea, into an exceedingly high mountain. And the Spirit, and an angel of the Lord, came and spake unto me.



#### 03. Hosanna to the Lord

for Soprano, Alto, and Tenor Soloists; and Unison Chorus

1 Nephi 11:1-23 CJ Madsen



















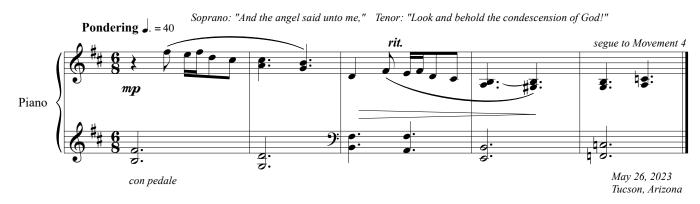




# 03.5. The Condescension of God

for Soprano (Nephi), Tenor (Angel) and Piano

1 Nephi 11:26 CJ Madsen



# 04. Behold the Lamb of God

for Soprano (Nephi) and SATB Chorus

1 Nephi 11:24-33 CJ Madsen

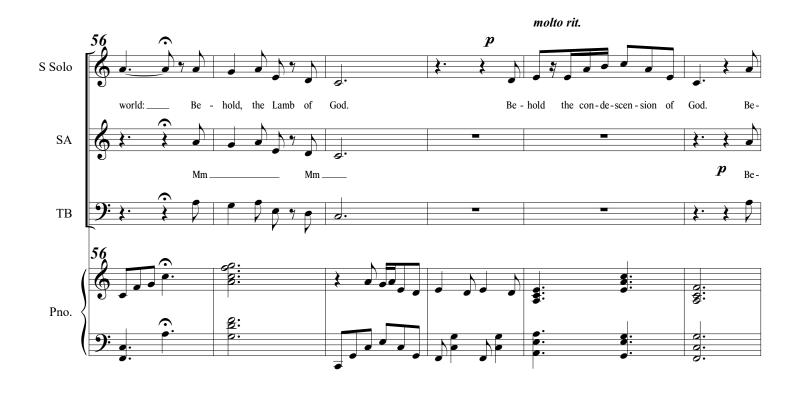


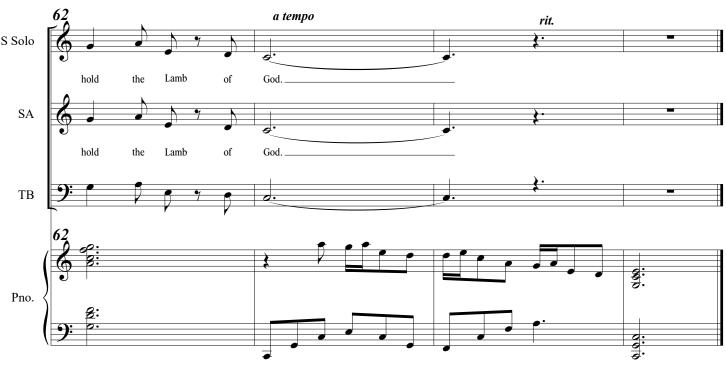












May 27, 2023 Tucson, Arizona

# 04.5. Their Garments Were White

for Soprano (Nephi), Tenor (Angel), and Piano

1 Nephi 12:1, 6, 10-11 CJ Madsen



"And I beheld multitudes of people. And I saw the heavens open, and the Lamb of God descending out of heaven: and he came down..."



"And showed himself unto them. And I beheld three generations pass away in righteousness, and their garments were white even like unto the Lamb of God."



# 05. White in the Blood of the Lamb

for SATB Chorus and Piano

1 Nephi 11:25, 12:10-11, 16

CJ Madsen















# 05.5. Gathered Together to Fight

for Soprano, Tenor and Piano



# 06. The Great and Spacious Building

for Tenor (Angel), SATB Chorus and Piano













#### Score

### 06.5. Nevertheless

for Tenor (Angel) and Piano

1 Nephi 13:30-34 CJ Madsen

**Hopeful** .. = 108

Piano

Tenor: "Nevertheless, the Lord God will not suffer that the nations shall forever remain"

Piano

Con pedale

Pno. 

"In that awful state of blindness, which thou beholdest they are in, because of the plain and most precious parts"

Pno.



June 24, 2023 Tucson, Arizona

### 07. Plain and Precious

for Alto, Bass, SATB Chorus and Piano

1 Nephi 13:34-37, 40-41

CJ Madsen



















June 27, 2023 Tucson, Arizona

# 07.5. The Devil and the Saints

for Soprano (Nephi) and Piano

Soprano: "And it came to pass that I looked and beheld the devil, and he had dominion over all the earth; nevertheless, I beheld that the saints of God"





June 24, 2023 Tucson, Arizona

## 08. The Power of God in Great Glory

for Soprano, Tenor, Bass, SATB Chorus and Piano

1 Nephi 14:7, 11-14 CJ Madsen















Soprano: "And behold, I, Nephi, am forbidden that I should write the remainder of the things which I saw and heard;"



### 08.5. What Meaneth the Rod of Iron

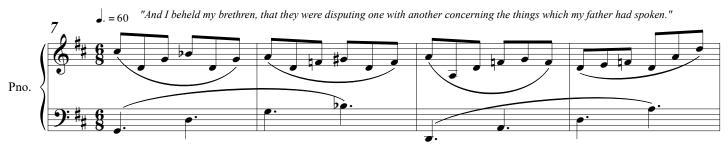
for Soprano (Nephi), Alto (Sam), Tenor, (Laman), Bass (Lemuel), and Piano

1 Nephi 15:1-2, 8-11, 21-23, 26-28

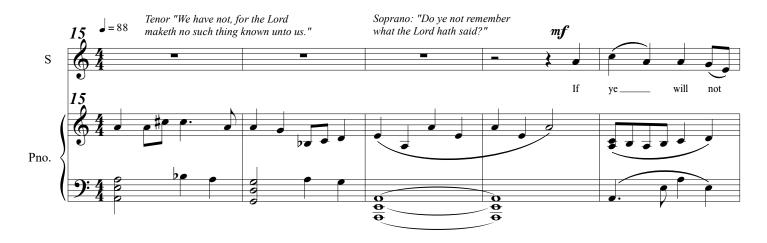
CJ Madsen

Soprano: "And it came to pass that after I, Nephi, had been carried away in the Spirit, and seen all these things, I returned to the tent of my father."











### 09. Hold to the Rod

for Soprano (Nephi). Alto (Sam), Tenor (Laman), Bass (Lemuel), SATB Choir, Audience, and Piano

1 Nephi 15:24, 36; "The Iron Rod" Hymn By William Clayson and Joseph Townsend CJ Madsen























for Bass (Lehi), SATB Choir, and Piano

1 Nephi 8:2-33

CJ Madsen



2 01. A Tree







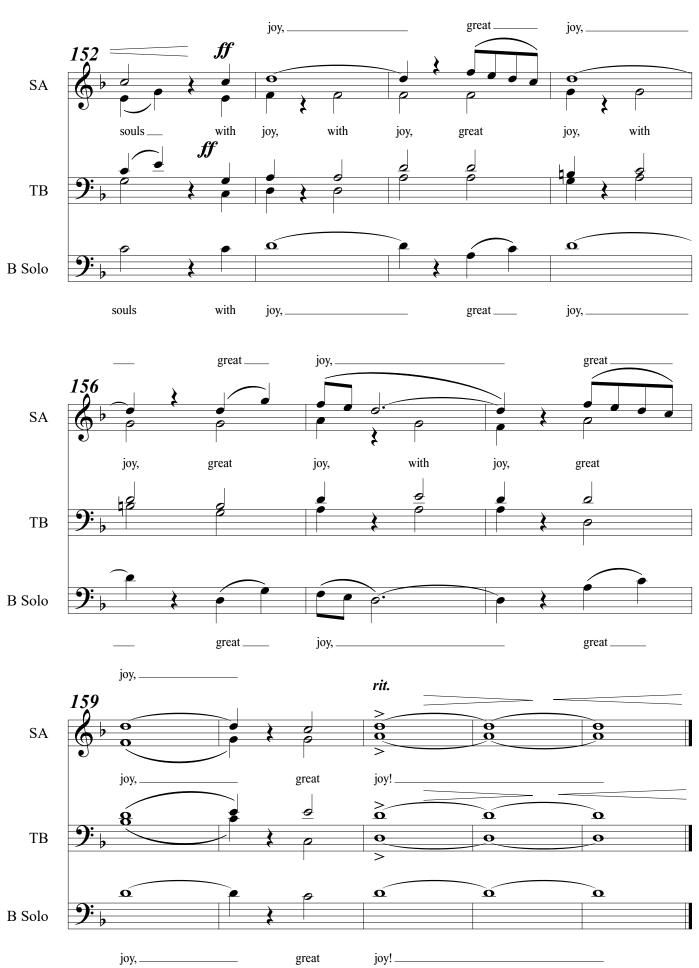






8 01. A Tree





# 01.5. I Was Desirous

for Soprano (Nephi) and Piano

1 Nephi 9:1; 10:4, 17 CJ Madsen

Soprano: And all these things did my father Lehi see, and hear, and speak unto his family.
And he spake of a prophet whom the Lord God would raise up among the Jews – even a Messiah, a Savior of the world.



Soprano: And it came to pass that I, Nephi, having heard all the words of my father, concerning the things which he saw in a vision – I, Nephi was desirous that I might see, and hear, and know of these things.

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May 4, 2023 Tucson, Arizona

## 02. The Power of the Holy Ghost

for Soprano (Nephi), SATB Choir, and Piano

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CJ Madsen

And the



Ghost.

By the pow-er of the Ho-ly

Ghost,









# 02.5. Caught Away in the Spirit

for Soprano (Nephi) and Piano

1 Nephi 11:1, 14 CJ Madsen



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#### 03. Hosanna to the Lord

for Soprano, Alto, and Tenor Soloists; and Unison Chorus





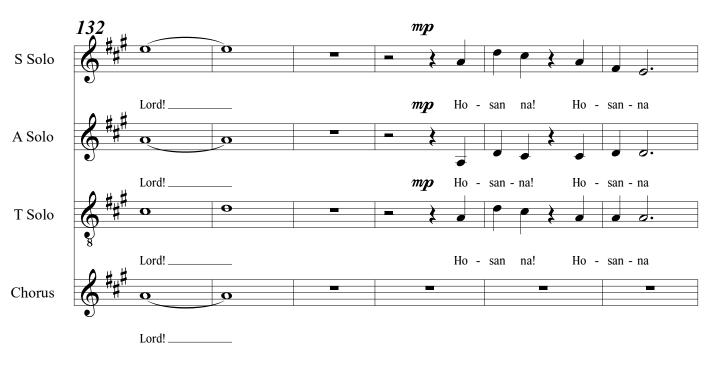


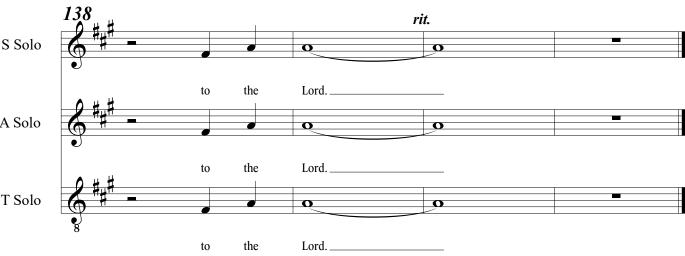








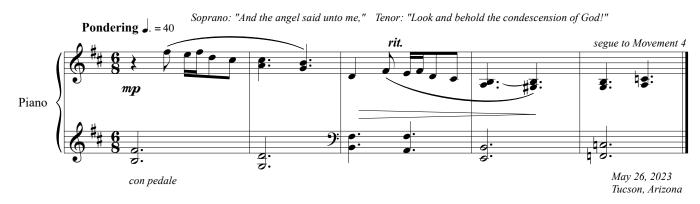




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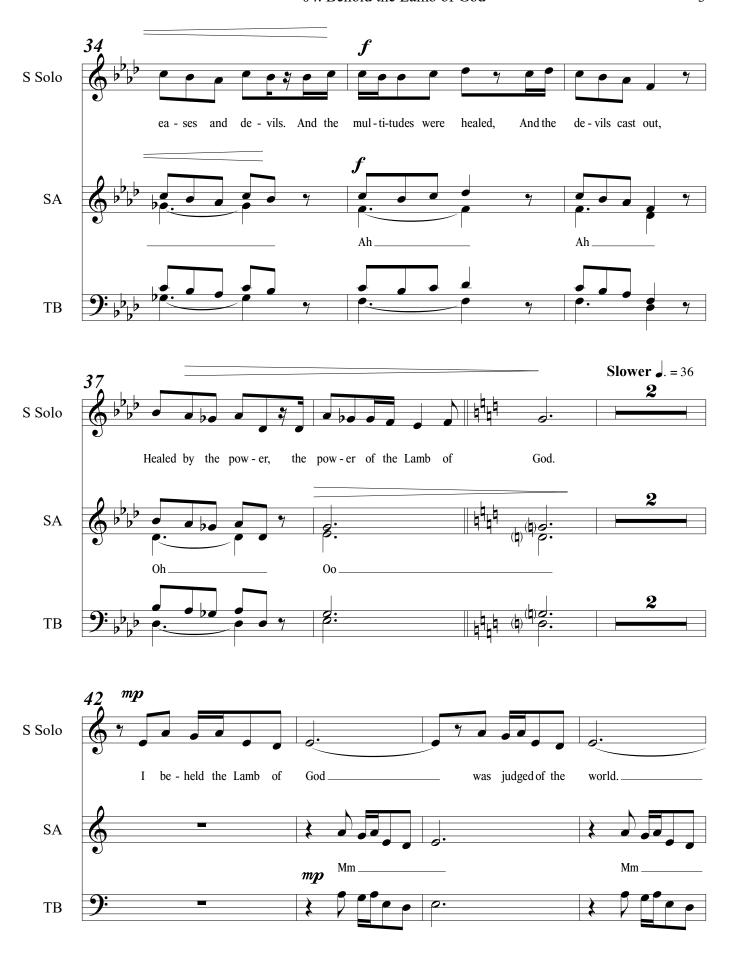


#### 04. Behold the Lamb of God

for Soprano (Nephi) and SATB Chorus









## 04.5. Their Garments Were White

for Soprano (Nephi), Tenor (Angel), and Piano

1 Nephi 12:1, 6, 10-11 CJ Madsen



"And I beheld multitudes of people. And I saw the heavens open, and the Lamb of God descending out of heaven: and he came down..."

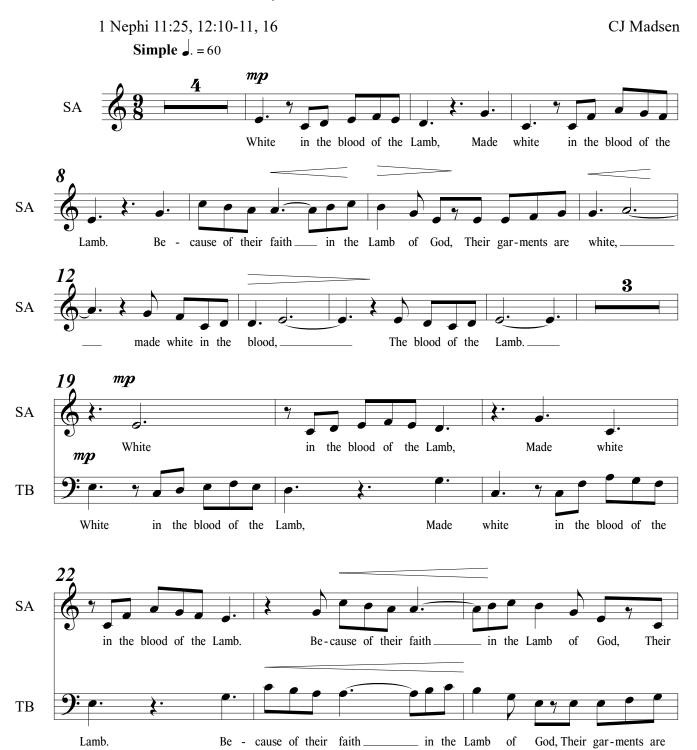


"And showed himself unto them. And I beheld three generations pass away in righteousness, and their garments were white even like unto the Lamb of God."



#### 05. White in the Blood of the Lamb

for SATB Chorus and Piano









## 05.5. Gathered Together to Fight

for Soprano, Tenor and Piano



## 06. The Great and Spacious Building

for Tenor (Angel), SATB Chorus and Piano







#### Score

#### 06.5. Nevertheless

for Tenor (Angel) and Piano

1 Nephi 13:30-34 CJ Madsen

**Hopeful** .. = 108

Piano

Tenor: "Nevertheless, the Lord God will not suffer that the nations shall forever remain"

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Con pedale

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"In that awful state of blindness, which thou beholdest they are in, because of the plain and most precious parts"

Pno.



June 24, 2023 Tucson, Arizona

#### 07. Plain and Precious

for Alto, Bass, SATB Chorus and Piano











## 07.5. The Devil and the Saints

for Soprano (Nephi) and Piano

Soprano: "And it came to pass that I looked and beheld the devil, and he had dominion over all the earth; nevertheless, I beheld that the saints of God"





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## 08. The Power of God in Great Glory

for Soprano, Tenor, Bass, SATB Chorus and Piano





God.  $\boldsymbol{f}^{\mathrm{But}}$  the

the

Lamb

a - gainst

SA

TB

mul - ti - tudes

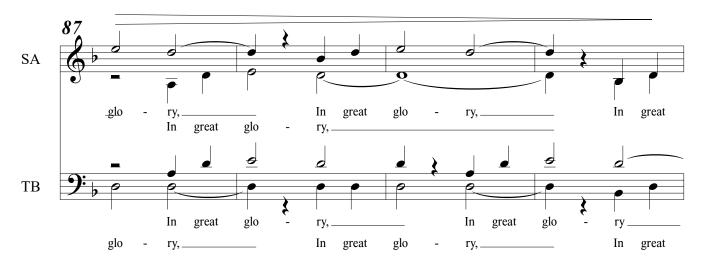
To

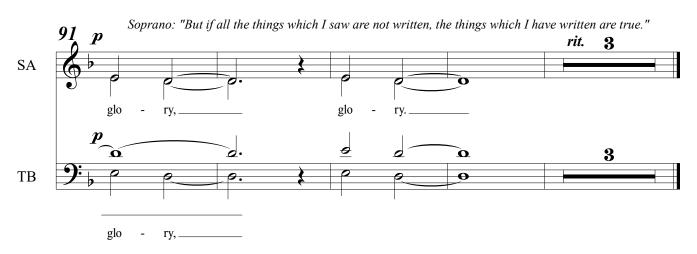
fight





Soprano: "And behold, I, Nephi, am forbidden that I should write the remainder of the things which I saw and heard;"





## 08.5. What Meaneth the Rod of Iron

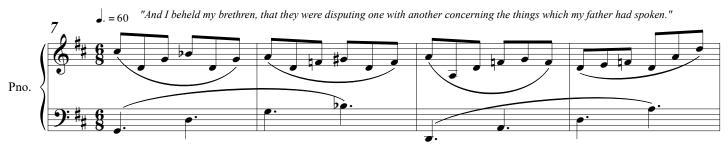
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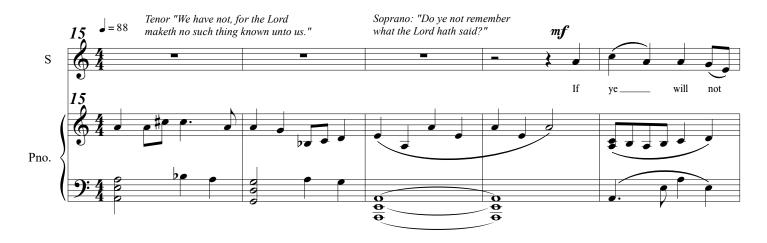
CJ Madsen

Soprano: "And it came to pass that after I, Nephi, had been carried away in the Spirit, and seen all these things, I returned to the tent of my father."











## 09. Hold to the Rod

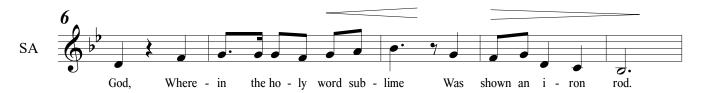
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CJ Madsen

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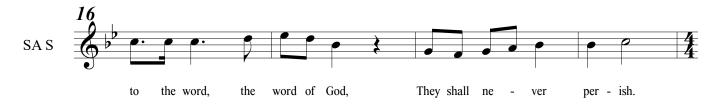
Constant  $\sqrt{\phantom{a}}$  = 80

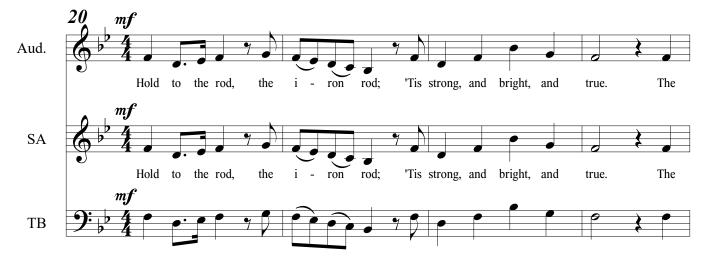




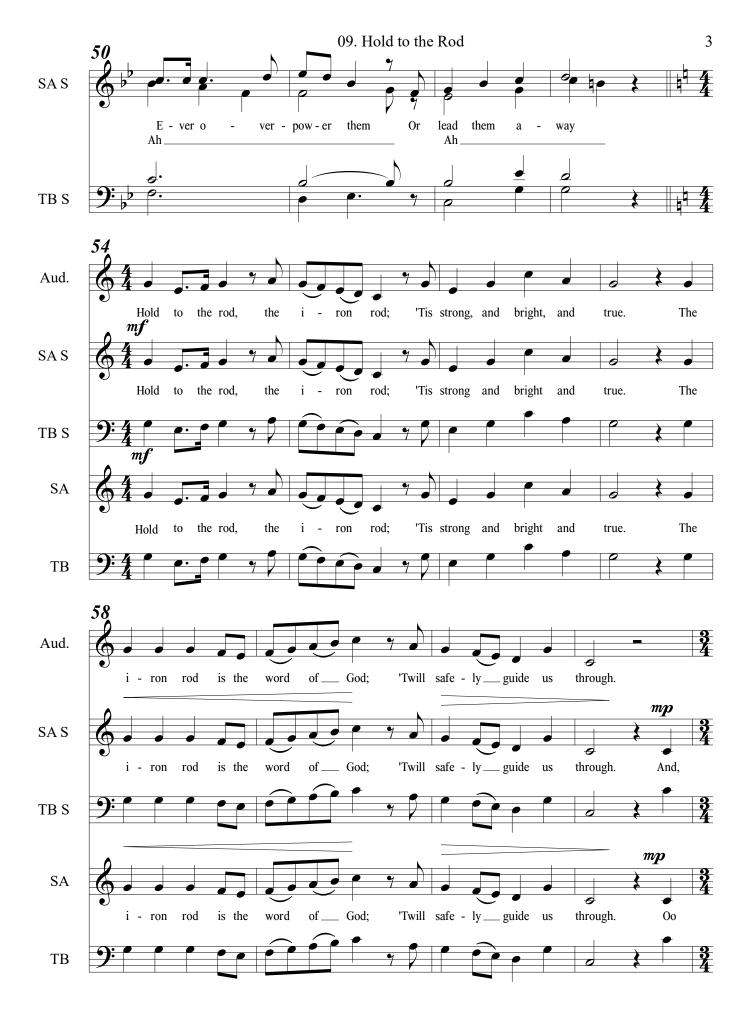


The i - ron rod is the word of God, And who - so will hold \_\_ fast Un-











TB

It is the great-est, the great-est of



is most pre-cious a-bove all

o-thers.

Whose fruit

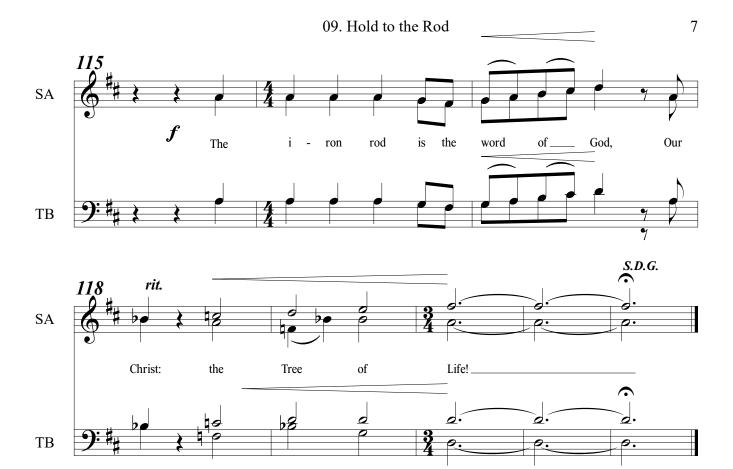
TB S

SA

TB

Rest





2 01. A Tree







01. A Tree 5





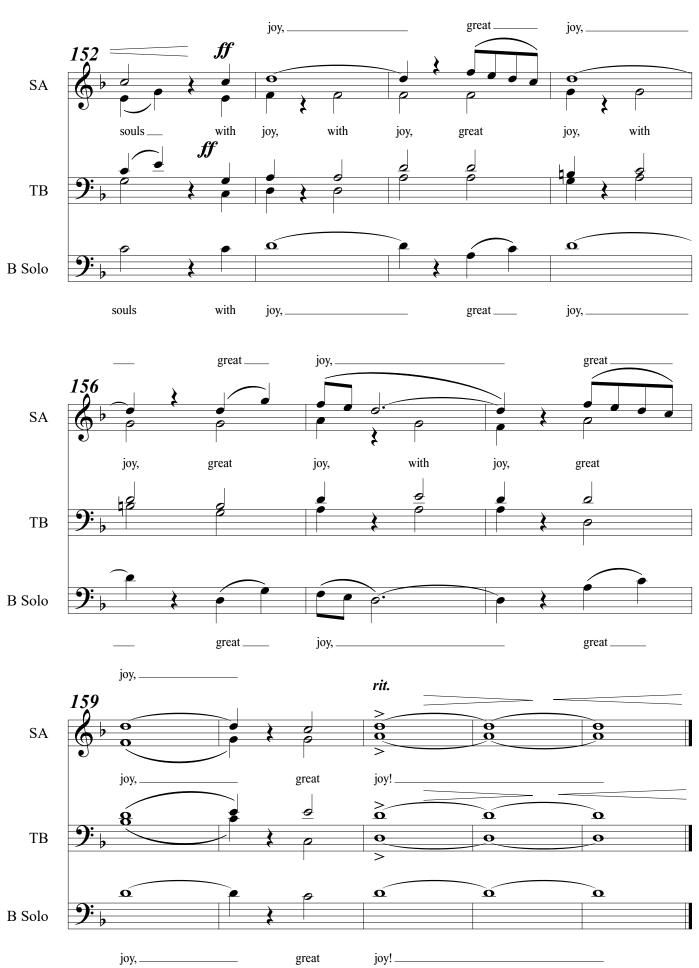
01. A Tree 7



8 01. A Tree



01. A Tree 9





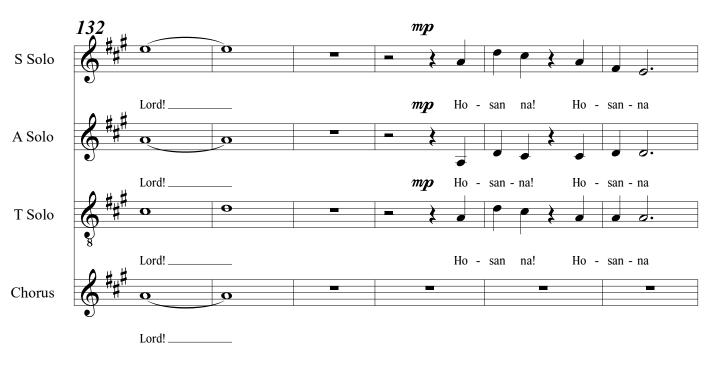


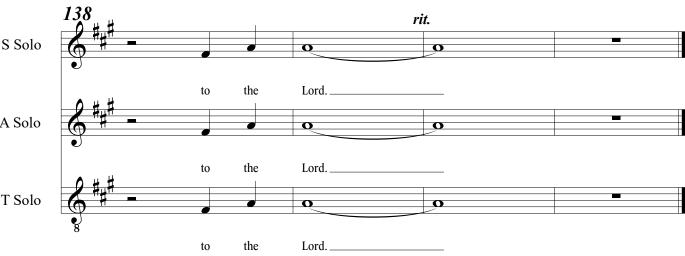










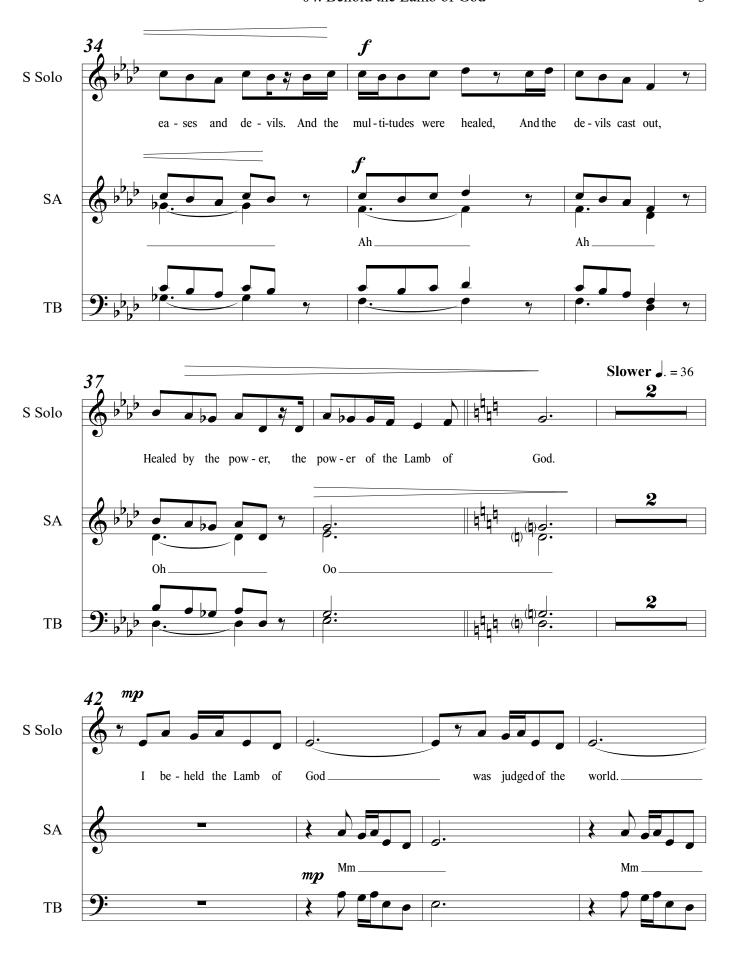


## 04. Behold the Lamb of God

for Soprano (Nephi) and SATB Chorus



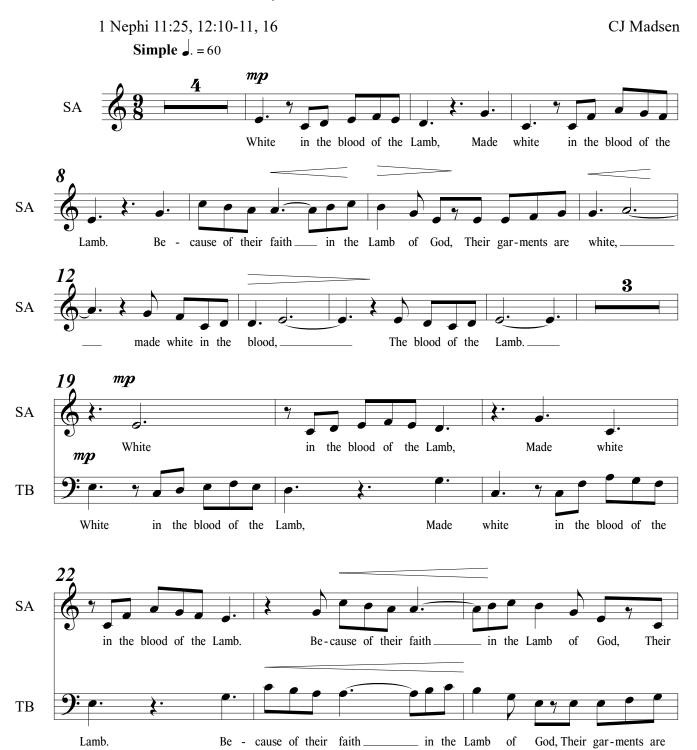






## 05. White in the Blood of the Lamb

for SATB Chorus and Piano





















God.  $\boldsymbol{f}^{\mathrm{But}}$  the

the

Lamb

a - gainst

SA

TB

mul - ti - tudes

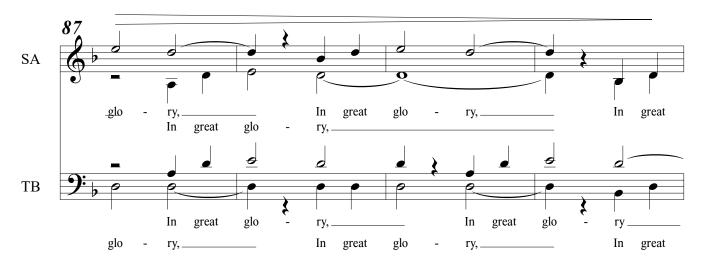
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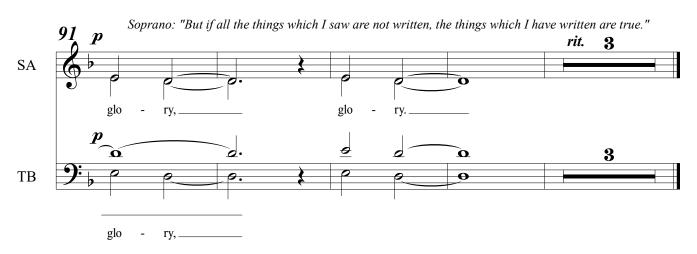
fight





Soprano: "And behold, I, Nephi, am forbidden that I should write the remainder of the things which I saw and heard;"





## 09. Hold to the Rod

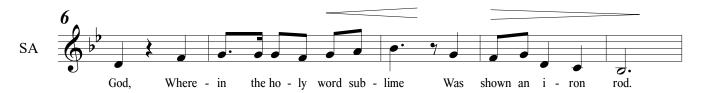
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CJ Madsen

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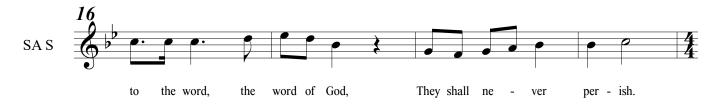
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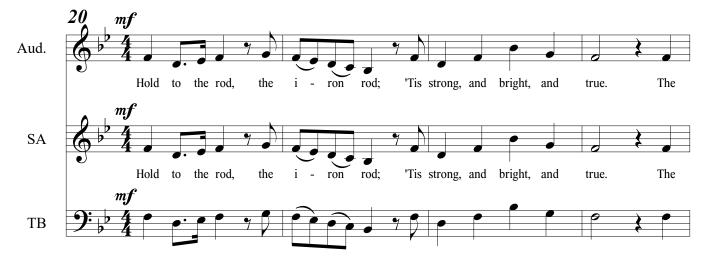




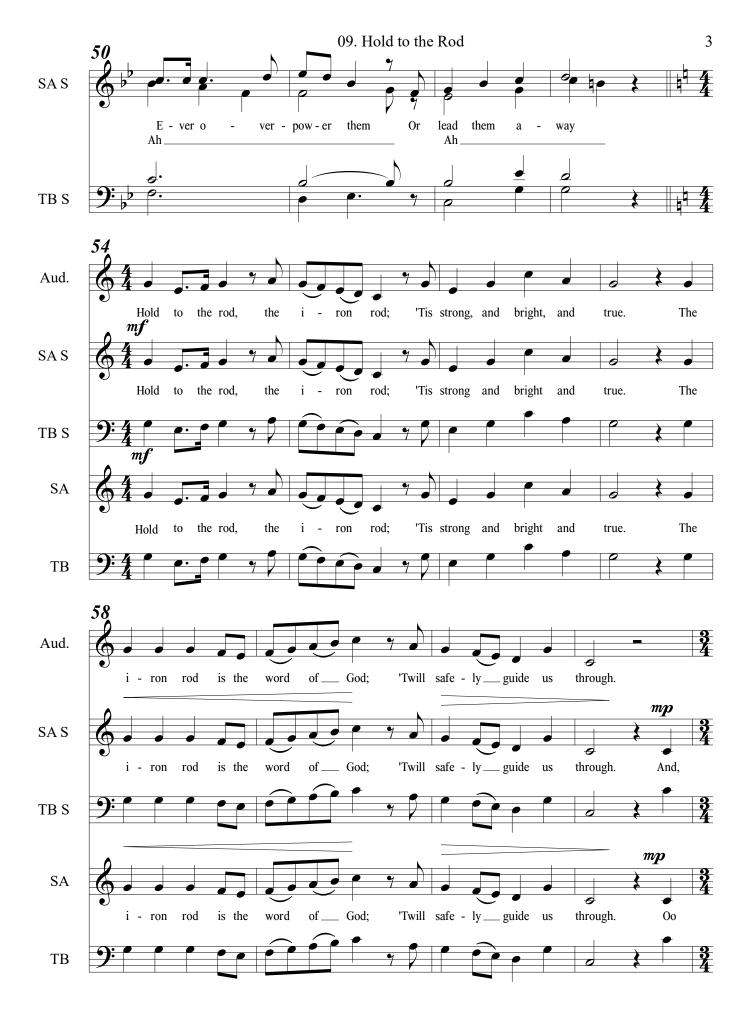


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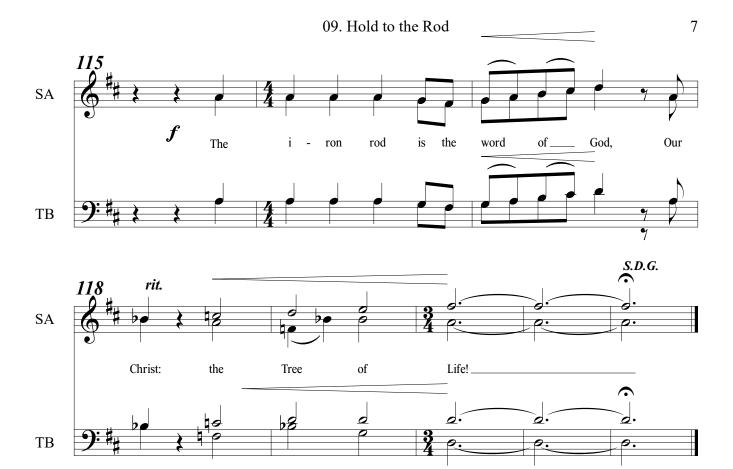
TB S

SA

TB

Rest





for Bass (Lehi), SATB Choir, and Piano (Simplified)



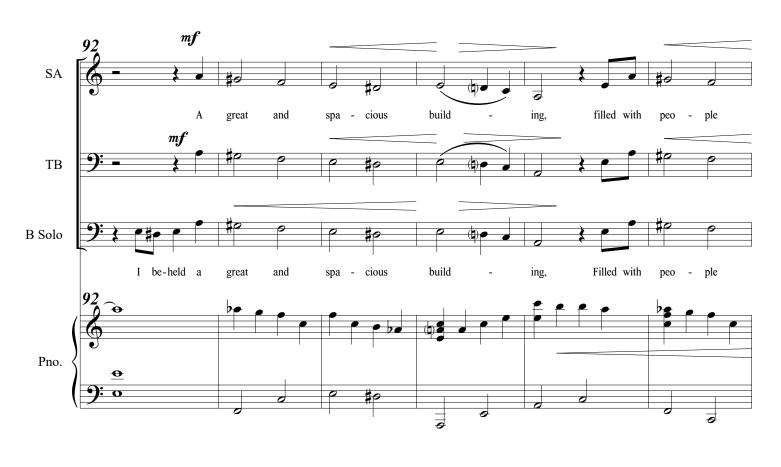


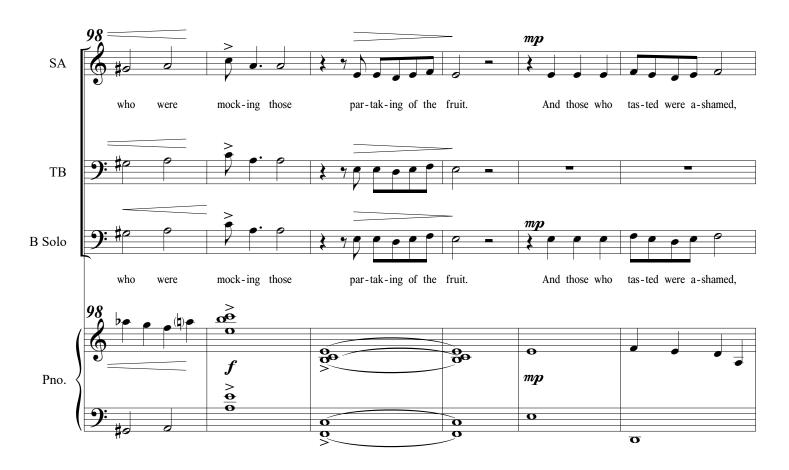


























## 01.5. I Was Desirous

for Soprano (Nephi) and Piano (Simplified)

1 Nephi 9:1; 10:4, 17 CJ Madsen

Soprano: And all these things did my father Lehi see, and hear, and speak unto his family.

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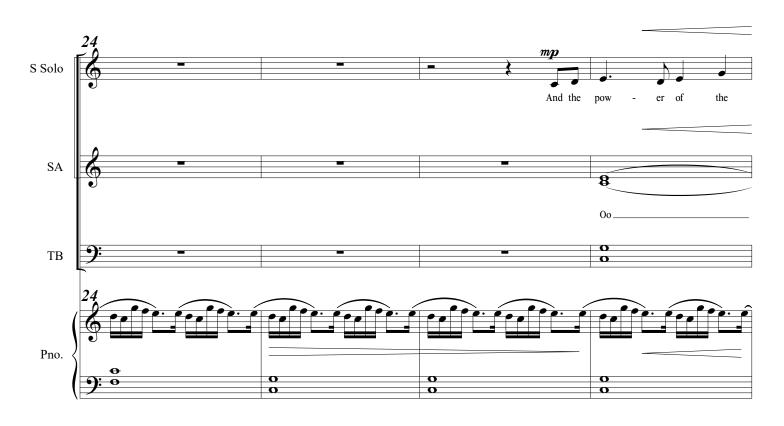
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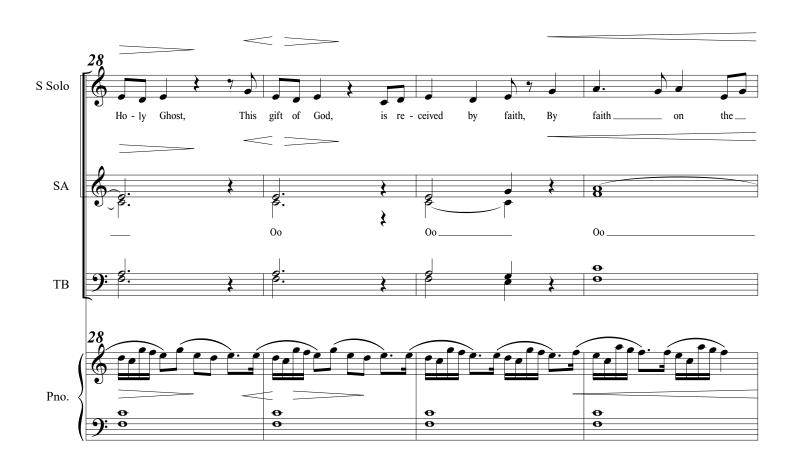
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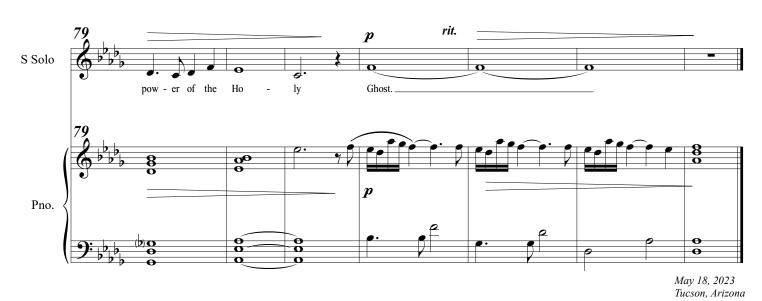












# 02.5. Caught Away in the Spirit for Soprano (Nephi) and Piano

1 Nephi 11:1, 14 CJ Madsen



Soprano: ...was able to make them known unto me, as I sat pondering in mine heart, I was caught away in the Spirit of the Lord,



Soprano: ...yea, into an exceedingly high mountain. And the Spirit, and an angel of the Lord, came and spake unto me.



#### 03. Hosanna to the Lord

for Soprano, Alto, and Tenor Soloists, Chorus, and Piano (Simplified)

1 Nephi 11:1-23 CJ Madsen





















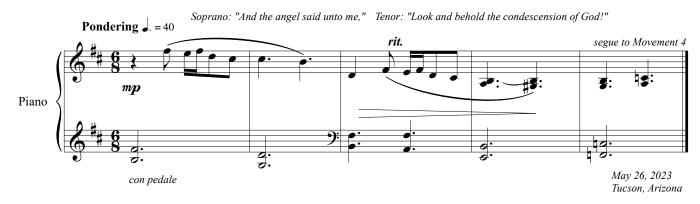


May 20, 2023 Tucson, Arizona

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for Soprano (Nephi), Tenor (Angel) and Piano (Simplified)

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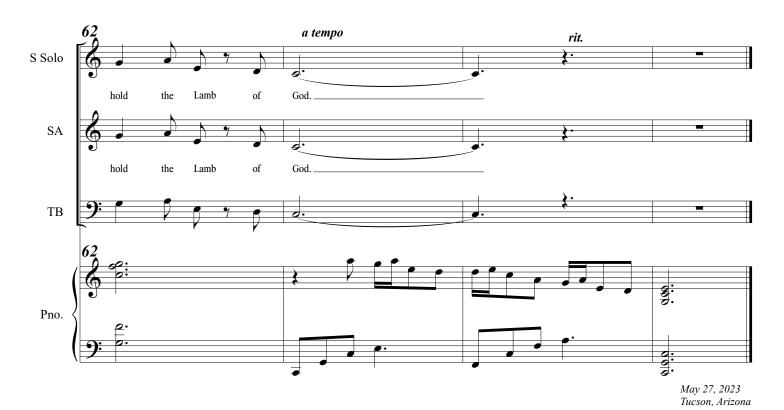






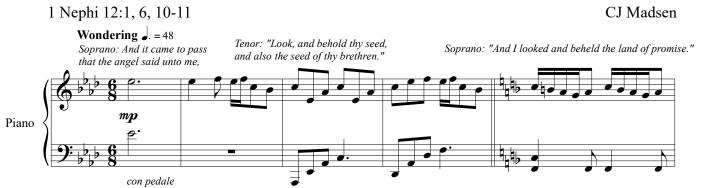






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for Soprano (Nephi), Tenor (Angel), and Piano (Simplified)



"And I beheld multitudes of people. And I saw the heavens open, and the Lamb of God descending out of heaven: and he came down..."



"And showed himself unto them. And I beheld three generations pass away in righteousness, and their garments were white even like unto the Lamb of God."



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for SATB Chorus and Piano (Simplified)

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CJ Madsen















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for Soprano, Tenor and Piano (Simplified)



## 06. The Great and Spacious Building

for Tenor (Angel), SATB Chorus and Piano (Simplified)













## 06.5. Nevertheless

for Tenor (Angel) and Piano (Simplified)

1 Nephi 13:30-34 CJ Madsen

**Hopeful** . = 108

Piano

Tenor: "Nevertheless, the Lord God will not suffer that the nations shall forever remain"

Piano

con pedale





June 24, 2023 Tucson, Arizona

## 07. Plain and Precious

for Alto, Bass, SATB Chorus and Piano (Simplified)

1 Nephi 13:34-37, 40-41

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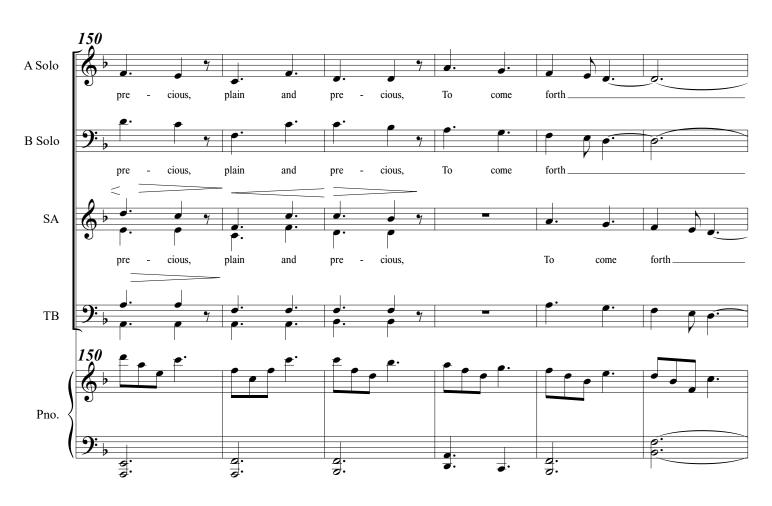






7









# 07.5. The Devil and the Saints

for Soprano (Nephi) and Piano (Simplified)

1 Nephi 14:11-13 CJ Madsen

Relentless = 96

Soprano: "And it came to pass that I looked and beheld the devil, and he had dominion over all the earth; nevertheless, I beheld that the saints of God"



"Were also upon all the face of the earth. And I beheld that the devil did gather together multitudes to fight against the Lamb of God."



June 24, 2023 Tucson, Arizona

# 08. The Power of God in Great Glory

for Soprano, Tenor, Bass, SATB Chorus and Piano (Simplified)

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1 Nephi 15:1-2, 8-11, 21-23, 26-28

CJ Madsen

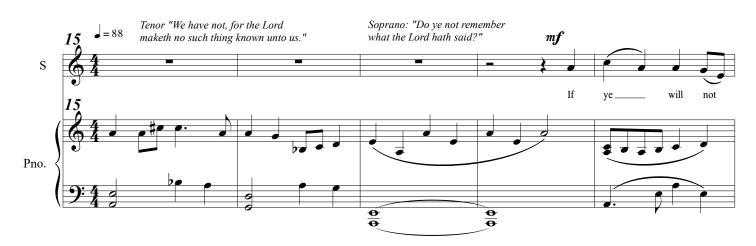
Soprano: "And it came to pass that after I, Nephi, had been carried away in the Spirit, and seen all these things, I returned to the tent of my father."



. = 60 "And I beheld my brethren, that they were disputing one with another concerning the things which my father had spoken."









### 09. Hold to the Rod

for Soprano (Nephi). Alto (Sam), Tenor (Laman), Bass (Lemuel), SATB Choir, Audience, and Piano (Simplified)

1 Nephi 15:24, 36; "The Iron Rod" Hymn By William Clayson and Joseph Townsend CJ Madsen





















