

2022.9.30 – *Come unto Him* – Composition – Medium Voice and Piano – 4'00''

CJ Madsen

Come unto Him

CJ MADSEN MUSIC



CJ Madsen (b. 1993)

Christopher Jed “CJ” Madsen is a first-year doctoral student at the University of Arizona, with an emphasis in choral conducting. CJ recently received a Master 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 all the auditioned BYU choirs. 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 cjmadsonmusic.com.

Notes from the Composer

This is a new musical setting for the hymn “Come unto Him”, written by Latter-day Saint Theodore E. Curtis about 100 years ago. My wife, Samm, and I grew up with the song in our church’s hymnal and loved the original musical setting by Hugh W. Dougall. However, my wife and I often discussed how more of the powerful poetry could be brought out through a fresh musical approach.

Then in September 2022, in one of my weekly Hymns of Hope livestreams, Samm requested that I try a new improvised setting of the hymn. As I pondered in the moment what to have the melody be, I remembered a melody my daughter, Hollis, had created on her own. It used the scale degrees 1-2-4-3-5 (do-re-fa-mi-sol). In that instant, the main motive of the piece (found in the first couple measures of the vocalist) was born, and the resulting improvisation was a success. I made a mental note to begin writing down the composition sometime in the future

A couple of weeks later, it was time to compose a fourth piece commissioned by Chris and Cosette Jones, a couple from Utah whom I met in early 2022. I remembered my experience with “Come unto Him” and suggested it as the next project. It was enthusiastically received, and I started work composing and getting feedback from Samm. She suggested the final piece to the puzzle: a countermelody (heard in the opening measures of the piano) taken from my 2017 solo piano work “The Creation of Light.” The motif represents stars and were the perfect setting for the opening of the poem. This piece is for me a statement that lasting conviction of the reality of Jesus Christ comes through the witness of the Holy Ghost – a witness that most often works in quiet but unforgettable ways in our mind and heart.

for Chris and Cosette Jones
Come unto Him
Medium Voice and Piano

Theodore E. Curtis

CJ Madsen

Hopeful ♩ = 80

p

con pedale

7

3

3

12 *mp*

I wan-der through the still of night, When sol-i-tude is ev-ery-where, A-lone, be-neath the

3

3

18

star-ry light, And yet I know that God is there. I kneel u-pon the grass and pray; An

25

an-swer comes with - out a voice. _____ It takes my bur - den all a-way And makes my ach - ing

31

heart re - joice. _____

39

mf

When I am filled with strong de-sire And

mf

46

ask a boon of him, I see no mir-a-cle of liv-ing fire, But what I ask flows in-to me. _____ And

53

when the tem - pest ra - ges high, I feel no arm a - round me thrust,

58

But ev' - ry storm goes roll - ing by When I re - pose in

62

him my trust. It mat - ters not what

68

may be - fall, What threat - ning hand hangs o - ver me; He is my ram - part through it all, My re - fuge from mine

Come unto Him

74 *mp*

e - ne - my. Come un - to Him, all ye de - pressed, Ye

80

err - ing souls whose eyes are dim, Ye wea - ry ones who long for rest. Come -

86

un - to Him! Come un - to Him! Come un - to Him!

92 *rit.* *p* *Matthew 11:28-30*

Come un - to Him.