CJ Madsen

Take the Covenant Path

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 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 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 CJMadsenMusic.com.

Note from the Arranger

In 2023 I was doing a program with the choir at my church's student center on the campus of the University of Arizona. The program centered on the basics of belief for The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. One of the unique beliefs of the Church of Jesus Christ is the role that covenants play between God and His children. For Latterday Saints, life is not only about coming to know and accept God but to make binding covenants with Him through ordinances (physical acts, such as baptism, that are done by God's divine authority). The sequence of covenants and ordinances in the Latter-day Saints is often in recent years referred to as the "covenant path."

In 2019, I wrote a children's song with simple accompaniment and melody to teach the steps of this covenant path. I returned to this song to create a flute/piano/choir arrangement for my student center choir to perform. It is meant to be charming — I considered it a pleasure to hear from several of my students in the week after introducing this song that the melody had been stuck in their head for hours after rehearsal.

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for SATB Choir, Flute, and Piano















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