

Commissioned by Moody Methodist Church, Galveston, Texas
Tracy Shirk, Director of Music Ministries

Storms

A musical for unison/two-part voices, piano, and percussion

by
Mark Burrows

Related Products:

Preview Kits (score and demo tracks) - CGK35
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Foreword

It started with a conversation. After a devastating hurricane hit the Texas coast, a child and his mom reached out to me. They were wrestling with why storms happen, and what God's role is during a storm. The first thing I did was reassure them that God does not make bad things happen. Period. God always and *only* works for good. We spent some time praying and exploring one of my favorite Bible stories - Jesus Calms the Storm.

The point to the story isn't that God (or Jesus) keeps challenging things from happening. The big idea is that no matter what happens, Jesus is in the boat with us. God's love *never* leaves us.

We all go through storms in our lives. Some storms are physical: like floods, hurricanes, wildfires, and tornadoes. Others are more figurative, but no less real: fear of loss, insecurity over whether we're "good enough" in school or sports, concern over a friend or family member struggling with illness, fear of being bullied.

Storms features a group of children who wonder if they have what it takes to overcome storms of their own. Through heartfelt songs, authentic dialogue, and a healthy dose of humor, the children discover that they can, with God's help, weather the storms of life. They even grow empowered to follow Jesus' example by *being there for others* going through times of storm.

I am deeply grateful to my friend and colleague, Tracy Shirk at Moody Methodist Church, Galveston, Texas. Thank you for having the vision to recognize that young people indeed have the capacity to work through (and sing through!) life's great challenges.

Take heart! No matter the storm, you are always loved and you are never alone.

Mark Burrows

*When you pass through the waters, I will be with you;
and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you.*
– Isaiah 43:2

The Cast of Characters

I always want to ensure that children feel they have access to any role, so each role may be played by any child, regardless of gender. Rather than having arbitrary names, the characters are named for personality traits or special aspects that stand out.

Roles are listed in order from most lines to fewest.

WHAT IF – positive, not hampered by what *is* but inspired by what *can be*. **WHAT IF** believes fully in the power of prayer.

CANTOR – the budding young choir director of the group. **CANTOR** understands the role music plays in strengthening our faith.

Storms (Prelude)

Mark Burrows

Rain Stick

Piano

6

11

16

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Storms

Mark Burrows

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Driving (♩ = 76)

Djembe

mf

mf

Piano

mf

1. We all run,
2. We all want,

4

we all stum - ble. —
we all wor - ry. —

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7

We all — feel joy and pain.
We all — feel strain and stress.

10

And when the clouds — start to
And in our haste, — in our

13

rum - ble, - bring - ing
wor - ry, - life can

16

wind and rain: what do we
be a mess: how do we

19

do when the storms get strong - er,
grow? How do we — learn from them,

22

when we're not sure we can hold — up for much
when we're not sure what it takes — to ov - er -

You Are Mine

Based on Isaiah 43:1-4

Mark Burrows

Soulful (♩ = 104) (♩♩ = $\overset{\frown}{3}$)

Optional Solo 1 *mf*

Piano *mf*

5 Djembe *mf*

9

When you

walk through the wa - ters, don't be a - fraid, for
 walk through the fire, — don't be a - fraid, for

my love will lead you through. When you
 my love will guard your way. When you

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13

feel scared and help-less, don't be a - fraid, for
feel lost and lone - ly, don't be a - fraid, for

Musical notation for measures 13-16, including vocal line and piano accompaniment with triplets.

17

my love will be here with you. Don't be a -
my love is here to stay. stay. Don't be a -

f
All *f*

Musical notation for measures 17-20, including vocal line and piano accompaniment with a forte dynamic marking.

21 Tambourine

Djembe

fraid, for I have re - deemed you, and

Musical notation for measures 21-24, including vocal line and piano accompaniment with tambourine and djembe parts and triplets.

25

Musical score for measures 25-28. It features a grand staff with two piano staves and a vocal line. The piano accompaniment includes triplet figures in the right hand and a steady bass line in the left hand. The vocal line is in a single treble clef with a key signature of one flat. The lyrics are: "filled you with light — di - vine. You are".

29

Musical score for measures 29-32. It features a grand staff with two piano staves and a vocal line. The piano accompaniment continues with triplet figures in the right hand and a steady bass line in the left hand. The vocal line is in a single treble clef with a key signature of one flat. The lyrics are: "cher-ished and held, you are hon-ored and loved. You are".

33

1.

pre - cious, you are mine.

1.

1.

3

3

37

mf

mf

Optional Solo 2 *mf*

2.

2.

mf

When you mine. I am

2.

3

41 Djembe

mf

with you through doubt and dark-ness. I am

mf

45

with you through flood and flame. I am

49

with you through ev - 'ry chal-lenge a - head, for I

53

made you and call you by name. Don't be a -

57 Tambourine

fraid, for I have re - deemed you, and

61

filled you with light — di - vine. You are

65

Musical score for measures 65-68. It features a grand staff with piano accompaniment and a vocal line. The piano part includes a triplet in the right hand and a dotted half note in the left hand. The vocal line is in a single staff with lyrics: "cher-ished and held, you are hon-ored and loved. You are".

69

Musical score for measures 69-72. It features a grand staff with piano accompaniment and a vocal line. The piano part includes a triplet in the right hand and a dotted half note in the left hand. The vocal line is in a single staff with lyrics: "pre - cious, you are mine. You are".

73

rit.

rit.

rit.

mine. You are mine.

rit.

3

77

8va

PREVIEW

MISSION 1: So, what can we do to be more like Jesus?

DRAMA: What can we do to help others during *their* storms?

WHAT IF: We can pray.

MISSION 2: (*emphatically*) But I want to actually *do* something.

WHAT IF: Holding the needs of someone else in your mind and on your heart *is* doing something – something truly powerful.

MISSION 2: But how does it really help?

WHAT IF: When our friend prayed for their mom, that helped. (*to EXPERIENCE*) Right?

EXPERIENCE: Yes. We prayed a lot. We didn't know what else to do, not physically, anyway. But... (*thinking*)

WHAT IS: But what?

EXPERIENCE: All those doctors. All those nurses. They were there too, doing everything they could for my mom. They were God's answer to our prayers.

WORD: Remember when the last big hurricane hit the coast? We all prayed for the people who had been affected, because that's what we could do.

METEOROLOGIST: (*animated*) And...there were all these people who rushed in to help - paramedics and firefighters, truckers with supplies. There were even people using their fishing boats as rescue vehicles.

WORD: They were God's answers to *our* prayers.

MISSION 1: (*unsatisfied*) So, is that how this all works? There are some people who "just sit around and pray" while others act?

WHAT IF: I don't think so. I believe God has a very important mission for us.

COMICS 1: An important mission - that sounds exciting!

WHAT IF: God has given each of us special talents and abilities that can make a real difference in this world.

COMICS 2: That sounds heroic!

WHAT IF: There will come a time when the one thing someone else might be able to do is pray. God will listen. God always does. And then God will call on someone to act, to be an answer to that prayer. That someone could be one of us.