

May the Love of the Lord

Rehearsal Resource Page



Composer: Swee Hong Lim, (hymn tune *SOON TI*) arranged by Emily Lund
Text: Maria Poh Choo Ling

Prayer:

God of blessing, may we be quick to offer kind and loving words to others. Keep us from speaking harshly or impatiently. May our words be like sunbeams, lighting our world with warmth and strength and peace. Amen.

Devotional Activity:

One of the oldest texts used in worship is this blessing: *The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make his face shine upon you and be gracious to you; the Lord lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace.* This special blessing is from Numbers 6:22-27. God gave these words to Moses, asking him to speak them over Aaron and his sons. Many churches share this benediction at the end of a worship service. Does your church use it? Is it spoken or sung? Spend a few silent moments reflecting on the text. Do any words or phrases stick with you? Doodle or draw them on paper and hang these words of blessing on the wall of your rehearsal room.

Vocabulary:

<i>mp</i>	<i>mezzo piano</i>	medium soft
<i>mf</i>	<i>mezzo forte</i>	medium loud
	<i>crescendo</i>	to gradually get louder
	<i>diminuendo</i>	to gradually get softer

Preparation Exercise:

Sing this vocalise with a light, easy sound - free of weight in the voice. Connect the notes with a legato line, adding a slight *crescendo* as you ascend and a supported *diminuendo* as you descend.



Talk about the pentatonic scale, on which the melody of the hymn tune *SOON TI* is based. Do you know other hymns or songs which utilize the pentatonic scale?

Rehearsal Tips:

- Identify the dotted lines on your Singer's Score. When you see a dotted line, do not breathe between these notes. Why do you think the arranger does not want singers to breathe in this spot? Check your body as you listen to the piano introduction. Are you in the best position to give your best sound? Take relaxed breaths as you listen to the beginning of this song and prepare your body to sing.
- If your singers know solfege, learn the final descant section (measures 33-40) using solfege syllables.
- Look at the A section (measures 5-21). Compare and contrast these four lines on your Singer's Score.
 - Study the first measure of each line. Is the rhythm the same in each measure? How about the melody?
 - Study the second (and then third) measures of each line. Can you spot any differences here?
 - Name the note in the final measure of each line. Now look at the A section as a whole. What patterns can you identify?

“May the Love of the Lord,” a beautiful song of blessing and benediction, contains this hopeful sentiment by author Maria Poh Choo Ling:

*May the love of the Lord rest upon your soul.
May God’s love dwell with you throughout every day.*

Swee Hong Lim’s pentatonic melody, which rises and falls with the phrase, is accessible for singers of all ages. Because the text and tune are suitable for a wide variety of choirs, this setting by Emily Lund allows for flexible voicing: treble choirs alone, SATB choir alone, or combined choirs.

Consider these options when planning for your choir(s) to sing this anthem in worship:

Treble/Unison Choir alone

Sing the Unison Choir line as written, beginning to end. Consider adding the optional Orff instruments or handchimes, which are easy enough for children to play as they sing. At m.33, you may split your choir into two parts: Group I (perhaps with the congregation) singing the SA melody, and Group II singing the descant/counter melody (Unison Choir line).

SATB Choir alone

Invite a soloist, small ensemble, or SA sections to sing m. 5-12. From m.14 to the end, sing the SATB parts as written. A few soprano voices may sing the descant (Unison Choir line) from m. 33-40.

Combined Choirs

Sing the piece as written. Note that the Unison Choir begins alone in m. 5-12, while the SATB choir sings alone from m. 22-31.

In honor of Miss M., Miss Termaat, and Miss Van Essen upon the occasion of their retirement, recognizing their faithful and passionate service of Christ and his kingdom.

May the Love of the Lord

Maria Poh Choo Ling

SOON TI
Swee Hong Lim
arr. Emily Lund

Moderately (♩ = 96)

Finger Cymbals
Wind Chimes
(optional)

Orff or
Handchimes
(optional)

mp

Moderately (♩ = 96)

Piano

p

pedal harmonically

5

Unison Choir*
mp

May the love of the Lord rest up-on your —

*If a unison choir is not present, this may be sung by a soloist or SA *unis*.

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8

Musical score for measures 8-10. The score includes a vocal line and a piano accompaniment. The vocal line has lyrics: "soul. May God's love dwell with you". The piano accompaniment features a steady eighth-note pattern in the right hand and a bass line in the left hand.

11

Musical score for measures 11-13. The score includes a vocal line and a piano accompaniment. The vocal line has lyrics: "through - out ev - 'ry - day." Above measure 11, there is a percussion instruction: "Finger cymbals" with a dynamic marking of "mp". The piano accompaniment continues with the eighth-note pattern in the right hand and a bass line in the left hand.

14

mp

Unison Choir

mp

SA

mp unis.

TB

unis. mp

mp

May the love of the Lord rest up-on your—

May the love of the Lord rest up-on your—

17

mf

mf

mf

mf

soul. May God's love dwell with you

soul. May God's love dwell with you

20

through - out ev - 'ry— day. *mp* *The Lord bless you and

through - out ev - 'ry— day. *mp* The Lord bless you and

23

keep you. The Lord make his face to shine up -

keep you. The Lord make his face to shine up -

*When an SATB choir is present, the unison choir should tacet m. 22-31.

25

on you. The Lord lift his coun - te - nance up -

div.

on you. The Lord lift his coun - te - nance up -

div.

27

mf on you and grant you peace, and

mf on you and grant you — peace, and

mf

mp