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
- Reproducible Audio Pak (Demo and Accompaniment) - CGCD78
- Reproducible Percussion Parts - CGRP65

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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

Mark Burrows

Driving ($\dot{\omega} = 76$)

Djembe

Piano

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

we all stumble.
we all worry.
We all feel joy and pain.
We all feel strain and stress.

And when the clouds start to
And in our haste, in our
do when the storms get stronger, how do we learn from them, grow?

when we’re not sure we can hold up for much when we’re not sure what it takes to overcome
You Are Mine

Based on Isaiah 43:1-4

Mark Burrows

Soulful \( (q = 104) \) (\( \text{♩♩♩} \))

Optional Solo 1

When you walk through the waters, don't be afraid, for my love will lead you through.

Djembe

When you walk through the fire, don't be afraid, for my love will guard your way.

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

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

Don’t be a-fraid, for I have re-deemed you, and

Tambourine
Djembe
filled you with light divine. You are

cherished and held, you are honored and loved. You are
precious, you are mine.

Optional Solo 2

When you mine. I am
41  Djembe

\[ \text{mf} \]

with you through doubt and darkness.

I am

\[ \text{mf} \]

with you through flood and flame.

I am

\[ \text{mf} \]

with you through every challenge ahead, for I
made you and call you by name. Don't be afraid, for I have redeemed you, and filled you with light divine. You are
cherished and held, you are honored and loved. You are precious, you are mine. You are
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.