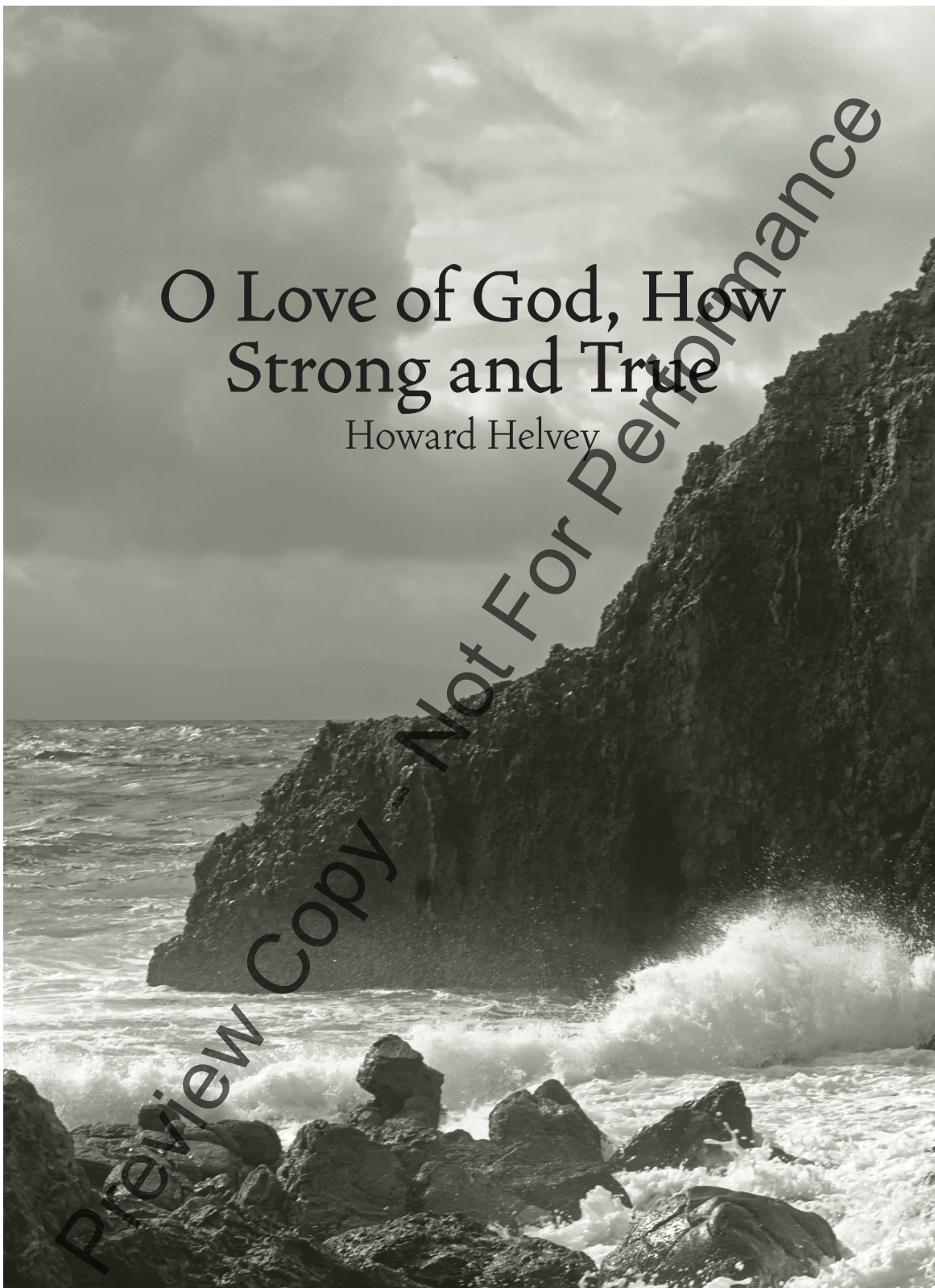


O Love of God, How Strong and True

Howard Helvey



Commissioned by First United Methodist Church of Brenham, Texas,
in honor of their 175th anniversary

O Love of God, How Strong and True

For SATB Choir and Piano

Text
Horatius Bonar
(1808-1889)

Music
Based on an English Folk Melody adapted by Ralph Vaughan Williams
Arranged and further adapted by HOWARD HELVEY
(ASCAP)

O love of God, how strong and true,
eternal and yet ever new,
uncomprehended and unbought,
beyond all knowledge and all thought!

O wide-embracing, wondrous love!
We read you in the sky above,
we read you in the earth below,
in seas that swell and streams that flow.

We read your power to bless and save,
e'en in the darkness of the grave;
still more in resurrection light
we read the fullness of your might.

O love of God, our shield and stay
through all the perils of our way!
Eternal love, in you we rest,
forever safe, forever blest.

Moderato con espressione ♩ = 63

The musical score is for a piano and SATB choir. It begins with a piano introduction in 3/4 time, marked 'Moderato con espressione' with a tempo of 63 beats per minute. The piano part features a melody in the right hand and a bass line in the left hand, both with triplets and a 'sempre legato' instruction. The piano part includes a 'pedal harmonically' instruction. The SATB choir part enters with the lyrics 'O love of God, how strong and true, e -'. The piano part continues with a triplet melody in the right hand and a bass line in the left hand, both with triplets. The piano part includes a 'SA unis.' instruction. The piano part includes a 'mp' instruction. The piano part includes a '3' instruction. The piano part includes a '4' instruction. The piano part includes a '5' instruction. The piano part includes a '6' instruction.

mp *sempre legato*

SA unis. *mp*

O love of God, how strong and true, e -

4 3 5 6

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ter - nal and yet — ev - er new, un - com - pre - hend - ed

and un-bought, be - yond all knowl - edge and all thought!

13 3 14 3 15 3 3

mp
O wide-em - brac

TB unis. *mf*
O wide-em - brac - ing, won-drous love! We

16 17 18

ing love! We read thee in

read you in the sky a-bove, we read you in the

19 20 21

the earth, in streams that

earth be-low, in seas that swell and streams that flow.

mp

22 23 24

p

flow.

mp

25 3 26 3 27 3

poco rit. *p* *a tempo*

We read your pow'r to bless and save, e'en

poco rit. *div. p* *a tempo*

28 3 29 3 30 3

mp

in the dark ness of the grave; still more in res - ur -

mp

31 3 32 3 33 3

mf the full - ness of your - might.

rec-tion light we read the full - ness of your

mf

34 35 36

might.

37 38 39

rall. *unis.* *f* **Poco meno mosso** $\text{♩} = 60$

O love of God, our

rall. *unis.* *f*

Poco meno mosso $\text{♩} = 60$

rall. *f*

40 41 42

shield and stay through all the per - ils of our way! E -

43 3 44 3 45 3

ter-nal love, in you we rest, for - ev - er safe, for -

46 3 47 3 48 3 8vb

ev - er blest.

49 3 50 3 51 3

rall. *mp* E -

rall. *mp*

rall. e molto dim. 1 3 3 2 3 3 54

Poco meno mosso ♩ = 56

ter-nal love, in you we rest, for - ev - er blest. -

unis. p *unis. p* for -

Poco meno mosso ♩ = 56

mp *p* 55 56 57 58

rall. *pp* ev er blest. -

rall. *pp* 8va

59 60 61 62