

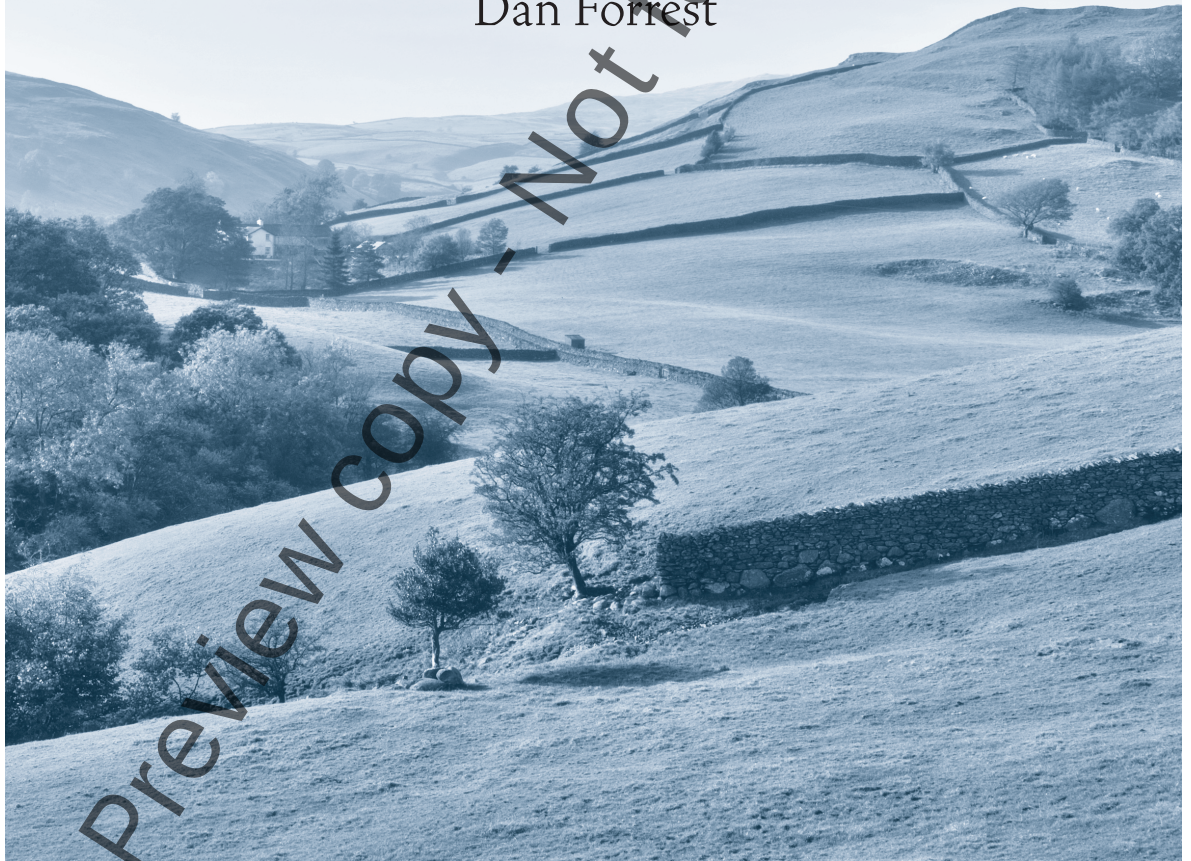
Hallelu Yah: Three Psalms of Praise

I. Psalm 148

✧ II. Psalm 147 ✧

III. Psalm 150

Dan Forrest



From the Composer

It was a joy to accept this commission honoring my former professor, longtime colleague, ardent supporter, and good friend, Dr. Warren Cook.

My inspiration for these settings came from seeing the common word “hallelujah” transliterated more clearly “hallelu Yah”, i.e. “praise YHWH”; these two words are an imperative (praise!) and the object of that praise (Yah, or Yahweh, the reverential Hebrew name of God). This opened up possibilities for both communicated meanings and speech accents.

I was also inspired to add percussion to the choir and piano, partly from reading in I Chronicles that Asaph, the ancient Hebrew worship leader and author of many Psalms, played the cymbals, and partly because Psalm 150 lists as much or more percussion than any other instrument family.

The last five Psalms all begin and end with this phrase, “Hallelu Yah,” and thus my settings of these three do the same.

The first movement sets portions of Psalm 148 about creation voicing God’s praise, and weaves quotes of a related hymntune throughout. Movement 2 turns its focus to people raising their voices alongside nature (from Psalm 147), and hints at the Psalmist’s harp in its accompaniment. The third and final movement sets Psalm 150 as a dance in compound meter, with its well-known list of instruments joining in praise along with “everything that has breath”.

The three movements can be performed as one 10-minute work or individually.

Commissioned by the Edward D. Anderson Choral Scholars Fund in celebration of
the lifetime music ministry of Dr. Warren Cook, Founder and Artistic Director of Rivertree Singers,
Greenville, South Carolina, and in recognition of Jean Cook, his lifelong collaborative pianist

Hallelu Yah: II. Psalm 147

For SATB Choir and Piano with optional percussion*

from Psalm 147

DAN FORREST
(ASCAP)

Tranquillo, unhurried ♩ = ca. 69-76

p always delicate, harp-like

1 2 3 4

If available, harp may join or replace piano

SA unis. *poco rit.* *mp* *a tempo* gently expressive

Tenor I, Bass I only
pp gently

How good it

Hal - le - lu Yah.

sempre simile *poco rit.* *p a tempo*

5 6 7 8 9

is to sing prais - es to our God, how

sempre simile

10 11 12 13 14

*Full score and percussion part (BP2286A) is available for purchase.

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BP2286-3

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unis.

good _____ it is, _____ how good _____

(echo) (echo)

15 16 17 18 19

*always bring out upper-register
RH melodic gestures*

_____ it is, _____ how pleas-ant and fit-ting to

20 21 22 23 24

praise _____ Him, _____ to sing prais - es _____

unis.

25 26 27 28 29

— to our God, how good — it

Measures 30-34. The vocal line begins with a whole note on G4, followed by a half note on A4, and then a half note on B4. The piano accompaniment features a steady eighth-note pattern in the right hand and a bass line in the left hand. Measure numbers 30, 31, 32, 33, and 34 are indicated below the piano staff.

is. The Lord de - lights in those who

Measures 35-39. The vocal line has a whole note on G4, followed by a half note on A4, and then a half note on B4. The piano accompaniment continues with a steady eighth-note pattern in the right hand and a bass line in the left hand. Measure numbers 35, 36, 37, 38, and 39 are indicated below the piano staff.

fear Him, who hope in His un - fail - ing

Measures 40-44. The vocal line has a whole note on G4, followed by a half note on A4, and then a half note on B4. The piano accompaniment continues with a steady eighth-note pattern in the right hand and a bass line in the left hand. Measure numbers 40, 41, 42, 43, and 44 are indicated below the piano staff.

p

love, _____ who hope in His un - fail - ing

45 46 47 48

love. _____

p

49 50 51 52

S. *Con moto*

A. *pp* *mp gently expressive*

Hal - le - lu Yah. _____ How good it

T. *pp* *mp gently expressive*

8 Hal le - lu Yah. _____ How good _____

B. *Con moto* *mp*

53 54 55 56 57

good, it is, how fit - ting and

it is, how fit - ting and

good it is, how fit - ting and

how good it is, how fit - ting and

68 69 70 71

mf pleas - ant to praise Him,

mf pleas - ant to praise Him,

mf pleas - ant to praise, praise Him, to sing

pleas - ant to praise, to praise Him to sing

72 73 74 75 76

to sing prais - es to our God, _____

prais - es _____ to our God, to our God,

prais - es _____ to our God, how good _____

prais - es _____ to our God, how good _____

77 78 79 80 81

_____ how good it is, the Lord de - lights in

_____ how good it is, the Lord de - lights in

_____ it is, _____ the Lord de - lights in

_____ it is, _____ the Lord de - lights in

82 83 84 85 86

those who fear Him, who

those who fear Him, who

those who fear Him, who

those who fear Him, who

87 88 89 90

poco rit.

poco rit.

poco rit.

poco rit.

freely, delicately

poco rit.

loco

8va

3

hope in His un - fail - ing love,

hope in His un - fail - ing love,

in His un - fail - ing love,

in His un - fail - ing love,

91 92 93 94

a tempo; less motion

a tempo; less motion

a tempo; less motion

a tempo; less motion

a tempo; less motion

S. *unis. mp*

A. who hope in His un

T. *unis. mp* Tenors, opt.

B.

fail - ing love.

Hal - le lu Yah.

p *rit.* *Slowly*

p *rit.* *Slowly*

+ Bases

rit. *pp*

95 96 97 98 99

100 101 102 103 104

105 106 107 108 109

Preview copy - Not for performance



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