

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: III. Psalm 150

For SATB Choir and Piano, with optional percussion*

Psalm 150

DAN FORREST
(ASCAP)

Maestoso ♩ = ca. 76

mf *rit.* **Con vivo** ♩ = ca. 92-96

SOPRANO
ALTO

Hal - le - lu Yah!

TENOR
BASS

Maestoso ♩ = ca. 76 **Con vivo** ♩ = ca. 92-96

PIANO

rit. *f* *r.h.* *l.h.* *secco*

1 2 3

f Hal - le - lu Yah! Hal - le - lu Yah! Hal - le - lu Yah!

4 5 6 *simile*

*Full score and percussion part (BP2287A) is available for purchase.

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poco rit. *a tempo*

Hal - le - lu Yah!

poco rit. *a tempo*

poco rit. *a tempo*

mp

f unis.

Praise Him in His sanc - tu - ar - y, Hal - le - lu Yah!

mf

secco

Ped. ad lib., simile

BP2287-4

Hal - le - lu Yah, Praise Him in His might - y heav - ens,

Hal - le - lu Yah,

Hal - le - lu Yah!

Praise Him for His might - y deeds, Hal - le - lu Yah!

BP2287-5

Hal - le - lu Yah! Praise Him for His ex-cel-lent great - ness,

Hal - le - lu Yah!

Hal - le - lu Yah!

Let them praise the name of the Lord,

♩ = ♩ (♩ = ca. 156)

♩ = ♩ (♩ = ca. 156)

BP2287-6

Hal - le - lu *unis.* Yah!

Let them praise the name of the Lord, Hal - le - lu

Yah! Hal - le - lu Yah!

25 26 27 28 29 30 31 32

Hal - le - lu Yah!

33 34 *simile*

poco rit. *a tempo*

Hal - le - lu Yah!

poco rit. *a tempo*

35 36

sub. mp

37 38

The musical score is for piano and voice. It begins with a key signature of three sharps (F#, C#, G#) and a common time signature. The first system (measures 33-34) features a vocal line with the lyrics "Hal - le - lu Yah!" and a piano accompaniment. Measure 34 is marked "simile". The second system (measures 35-36) includes tempo markings "poco rit." and "a tempo". The piano part in measure 36 has a complex rhythmic pattern with many beamed sixteenth notes. The third system (measures 37-38) starts with a piano part marked "sub. mp" (subito mezzo-piano). Measure 37 has a fermata over the final note. Measure 38 continues the piano accompaniment.

S. f
Praise Him! _____

A. f
Praise Him__ with the sound of the trum - pet, Hal - le - lu__ Yah! _____

T. f
Praise Him! _____

B. f
Praise Him__ with the sound of the trum - pet, Hal - le - lu__ Yah! _____

f
39 40

Hal - le - lu Yah, Praise Him__ with the lute__ and harp, _____

Praise Him! _____

8
Hal - le - lu Yah, Praise Him__ with the lute__ and harp, _____

Praise Him! _____

41 42

Hal - le - lu Yah!

Hal - le - lu Yah!

Hal - le - lu Yah!

Hal - le - lu Yah!

43

44

Praise Him with the tam - bour-ine and dance, Hal-le-lu Yah!

Praise Him with the tam - bour-ine and dance, Hal-le-lu Yah!

Praise Him with the tam - bour-ine and dance, Hal-le-lu Yah!

Praise Him with the tam - bour-ine and dance, Hal-le-lu Yah!

45

46

The musical score is for a piece in A major (three sharps) and 4/4 time. It features four vocal staves and a piano accompaniment. The first system contains the first two vocal parts and the piano introduction. The second system contains the next two vocal parts and the piano accompaniment. The third system contains the first two vocal parts and the piano accompaniment. The fourth system contains the next two vocal parts and the piano accompaniment. The score includes various musical notations such as treble and bass clefs, key signatures, time signatures, notes, rests, and dynamic markings. A large diagonal watermark 'Preview Copy, Not for performance' is overlaid on the score.

Praise Him___ with the strings_ and pipe,___

Hal - le - lu - Yah! Praise Him___ with the strings_ and pipe,

Praise Him___ with the strings_ and pipe,___

Hal - le - lu Yah! Praise Him___ with the strings_ and pipe,

Hal - le - lu___ Yah!_____

Hal - le - lu___ Yah!_____

Hal - le - lu___ Yah!_____

Hal - le - lu___ Yah!_____

r.h. 8^{va}

(l.h. loco)

47 48 49 50

ff

Praise Him _ with the sound - ing cym - bals! _____

ff

Praise Him _ with the sound - ing cym - bals! _____

ff

8 Praise Him _ with the sound - ing cym - bals! _____

ff

Praise Him _ with the sound - ing cym - bals! _____

loco

f

51 52

mf

Oh, _____ praise Him _ with the loud _____ cym - bals! _

mf

Oh, _____ praise Him _ with the loud _____ cym - bals! _

mf

8 Oh, _____ praise Him _ with the loud _____ cym - bals! _

mf

Oh, _____ praise Him _ with the loud _____ cym - bals! _

53 54

Broadly

f

Let ev - 'ry

f

Let ev - 'ry

f

Let ev - 'ry

f

Let ev - 'ry

Broadly

*f**poco rit.**a tempo*

thing that has breath praise the Lord!

*poco rit.**a tempo*

thing that has breath praise the Lord!

*poco rit.**a tempo*

thing that has breath praise the Lord!

*poco rit.**a tempo*

thing that has breath praise the Lord!

*poco rit.**mp a tempo*

$\text{♩} = \text{♩}$ ($\text{♩} = \text{ca. } 156$)

ff

Let them praise the name of the Lord!

ff

Let them praise the name of the Lord!

ff

Let them praise the name of the Lord!

ff

Let them praise the name of the Lord!

$\text{♩} = \text{♩}$ ($\text{♩} = \text{ca. } 156$)

ff

61 62 63

Hal - le - lu Yah!

Hal - le - lu Yah!

Hal - le - lu Yah!

Hal - le - lu Yah!

64 65

Let them praise the name of the Lord! Hal - le - lu

Let them praise the name of the Lord! Hal - le - lu

Let them praise the name of the Lord! Hal - le - lu

Let them praise the name of the Lord! Hal - le - lu

66 67 68

Yah! Hal - le - lu Yah!

Yah! Hal - le - lu Yah!

Yah! Hal - le - lu Yah!

Yah! Hal - le - lu Yah!

69 70 71

Hal - le - lu Yah!

Hal - le - lu Yah!

Hal - le - lu Yah!

Hal - le - lu Yah!

ff

72 73 74

75 76 77

8vb