

how to play hymns on piano pdf

how to play hymns on piano pdf is an essential phrase for pianists, church musicians, and enthusiasts seeking to enhance their ability to perform sacred music with precision and grace. This article provides a comprehensive guide on understanding and utilizing hymn piano sheets in PDF format, catering to both beginners and experienced players. It covers the benefits of using PDF hymnals, how to read and interpret hymn music, and effective practice techniques to master hymn playing on the piano. Additionally, it discusses resources for finding quality hymn PDFs and tips for adapting hymns to different skill levels. Whether preparing for worship services or personal enrichment, this guide offers valuable insights into how to play hymns on piano pdf efficiently and confidently. The following sections will delve into the fundamentals, reading techniques, practice strategies, and sourcing hymn PDFs.

- Understanding Hymn Piano PDFs
- Reading and Interpreting Hymn Music
- Effective Practice Techniques for Hymns
- Finding and Utilizing Hymn PDFs

Understanding Hymn Piano PDFs

Hymn piano PDFs are digital sheet music files that provide the musical notation needed to play hymns on the piano. These files are commonly used by musicians to access hymn arrangements conveniently and in a portable format. The PDF format maintains the original layout and notation accuracy, allowing pianists to view and print sheet music without loss of quality. Understanding the structure and components of hymn piano PDFs is crucial for effective use.

Advantages of Using PDF Hymnals

Using hymn piano PDFs offers several benefits over traditional printed hymnals. PDFs allow for easy storage and organization of numerous hymns on electronic devices such as tablets and laptops. Musicians can quickly search for specific hymns, enlarge the notation for better visibility, and even annotate the sheets digitally. This convenience makes PDF hymnals an indispensable tool for church pianists and music directors.

Common Features in Hymn PDFs

Most hymn piano PDFs contain standard musical notation including treble and bass clefs, chord symbols, and lyrics. Some arrangements also provide simplified versions for beginners or more complex accompaniments for advanced players. Understanding these features helps pianists select appropriate arrangements based on their skill level and the context of performance.

Reading and Interpreting Hymn Music

To effectively play hymns from a piano PDF, one must be proficient in reading sheet music and interpreting the stylistic elements of hymnody. This section explains how to approach hymn music reading and the nuances that distinguish hymns from other musical genres.

Basic Music Reading Skills

Reading hymn music involves recognizing notes on the staff, understanding rhythmic values, and interpreting dynamics and articulations. Familiarity with key signatures and time signatures commonly found in hymns is essential. Many hymns are written in common time (4/4) or triple meter (3/4), which influences the rhythmic feel and flow of the music.

Understanding Hymn Structure

Hymns typically follow structured forms such as strophic or verse-chorus formats. Recognizing these patterns aids in anticipating musical phrases and transitions. Additionally, chord progressions in hymns often follow traditional harmonic sequences that provide a stable foundation for congregational singing and accompaniment.

Interpreting Chord Symbols and Accompaniment Patterns

Chord symbols in hymn PDFs guide pianists in creating harmonic support. Learning common accompaniment patterns, such as arpeggios, block chords, and broken chords, enhances the musicality and texture of hymn playing. These patterns can be adapted depending on the tempo, mood, and setting of the hymn performance.

Effective Practice Techniques for Hymns

Mastering how to play hymns on piano pdf requires disciplined practice strategies tailored to the unique demands of hymn music. This section outlines methods to improve accuracy, expression, and fluency in hymn performance.

Segmented Practice Approach

Breaking hymns into smaller sections or measures allows focused practice on challenging passages. This segmented approach helps in addressing technical difficulties such as hand coordination and complex rhythms. Repeatedly practicing these segments before integrating them into the full piece promotes confidence and precision.

Hands-Separate and Hands-Together Practice

Starting with hands-separate practice enables pianists to master each hand's part independently. This

method is particularly effective for hymns with intricate left-hand accompaniments or right-hand melodic lines. Once comfortable, combining both hands enhances coordination and overall flow.

Utilizing Metronome and Slow Tempo Practice

Using a metronome ensures consistent tempo and timing while practicing. Beginning at a slower tempo allows for accurate note reading and rhythm execution. Gradually increasing the speed as proficiency improves helps develop muscle memory and performance readiness.

Incorporating Dynamics and Expression

Hymns are not only about playing correct notes but also conveying spiritual emotion. Practicing with attention to dynamics, phrasing, and articulation brings life to the music. Experimenting with varying volumes and expressive touches enhances the worship experience.

Practice Checklist for Hymn Playing

- Review the hymn structure and key signature
- Practice hands separately focusing on difficult sections
- Use a metronome to maintain steady tempo
- Gradually combine hands and increase tempo
- Emphasize dynamics and phrasing during final practice

Finding and Utilizing Hymn PDFs

Accessing quality hymn piano PDFs is fundamental to learning and performing hymns effectively. This section discusses reliable sources and best practices for downloading, organizing, and utilizing hymn PDFs in various settings.

Sources for Hymn Piano PDFs

Many websites and digital platforms offer free or paid hymn piano PDFs. Official church music publishers and denominational resources often provide authorized hymn arrangements. Public domain hymns are widely available through online archives, allowing pianists to legally download and print copies for personal use.

Organizing and Managing Hymn PDFs

Efficient file management ensures easy access to hymn PDFs during rehearsals and performances. Creating folders categorized by hymn titles, occasions, or difficulty levels facilitates quick retrieval. Renaming files with consistent naming conventions further aids navigation among large collections.

Using Digital Devices for Hymn Performance

Tablets and e-readers have become popular tools for displaying hymn PDFs during live playing. Features such as page-turning pedals, zooming, and annotation apps enhance usability. Musicians should familiarize themselves with their devices to ensure smooth transitions between pages without interrupting the performance.

Printing and Annotating Hymn PDFs

While digital viewing is convenient, printing hymns can be beneficial for those who prefer paper copies. Annotating printed sheets with fingerings, dynamics, and reminders supports effective practice and performance. Whether digital or printed, personalizing hymn sheets optimizes learning and interpretation.

Frequently Asked Questions

Where can I find free PDF sheets for playing hymns on piano?

You can find free PDF sheets for hymns on websites like IMSLP, Hymnary.org, or by searching for specific hymn titles along with 'piano sheet music PDF' on Google.

What are the best tips for beginners to play hymns on piano?

Start by learning the melody with your right hand, then add simple left-hand chords. Practice slowly, focus on timing and expression, and gradually increase speed as you become comfortable.

How can I use a PDF to learn hymns on piano effectively?

Print the PDF or use a tablet for easy viewing, mark difficult sections, practice hands separately, and use a metronome to keep time while gradually increasing tempo.

Are there specific hymns recommended for beginner piano players?

Yes, hymns like 'Amazing Grace,' 'Jesus Loves Me,' and 'Holy, Holy, Holy' have simple melodies and chords that are suitable for beginners.

Can I transpose hymns in a PDF to a different key for easier playing?

Yes, you can use music notation software like MuseScore or online tools to transpose PDF music files into easier keys before printing or practicing.

How do I read piano hymn sheets in PDF format?

Piano hymn sheets typically show the melody in the treble clef and chords or bass notes in the bass clef. Familiarize yourself with hymn notation and chord symbols to interpret them correctly.

Is there software that helps convert hymn PDFs into playable piano tutorials?

Some apps like Flowkey or Synthesia offer tutorials, but they might not support custom PDFs directly. You can convert PDF sheets to MIDI with software and use those apps for practice.

What should I do if the hymn PDF has complex arrangements?

Look for simplified versions of the hymn or create your own arrangement by focusing on the melody and basic chords to make it more manageable for your skill level.

How can I improve my sight-reading skills using hymn PDFs?

Practice regularly with different hymn PDFs, start slowly, focus on recognizing common hymn patterns, and gradually increase difficulty to build confidence and fluency.

Additional Resources

1. *Easy Hymns for Piano: A Beginner's Guide*

This book is designed for beginners who want to learn how to play popular hymns on the piano. It includes simplified arrangements of classic hymns with clear notation and fingerings. The PDF format makes it easy to access and print the music sheets. Additionally, the book provides tips on hand positioning and rhythm to help new players build confidence.

2. *Classic Hymns Piano Collection: Intermediate Level*

Ideal for pianists with some experience, this collection offers beautifully arranged hymns that balance playability and musicality. The book features a variety of traditional hymns with detailed instructions on dynamics and expression. The PDF includes practice tips and suggestions for accompanying congregational singing. This resource helps players enhance their technique while enjoying familiar melodies.

3. *Hymns for Worship: Piano Arrangements and Tips*

Focused on church pianists, this book provides practical arrangements of hymns commonly used in worship services. Each hymn is presented with chord symbols, allowing players to improvise or accompany singers effectively. The PDF also contains guidance on tempo, registration, and transitions between songs. It's a valuable tool for those who want to lead worship through piano music.

4. *How to Play Hymns by Ear: A Piano Player's Guide*

This instructional book teaches pianists how to learn and play hymns without relying solely on sheet music. It covers ear training exercises, chord recognition, and melody picking techniques. The PDF includes audio examples and practice exercises to develop listening skills. Perfect for players who want to enhance their musical intuition and adaptability.

5. *Hymn Piano Solos for All Levels*

Offering a wide range of hymn arrangements from easy to advanced, this book suits pianists at any stage. Each piece is annotated with performance notes to guide expression and phrasing. The PDF format allows for easy navigation and printing of individual hymns. It's a comprehensive collection for those who want to explore hymn playing in depth.

6. *Arranging Hymns for Piano: A Step-by-Step Approach*

This book focuses on the art of arranging hymns for solo piano performance. Readers learn techniques for harmonization, voicing, and adding embellishments. The PDF includes example scores and exercises to practice arranging skills. It's an excellent resource for pianists interested in creating their own hymn arrangements.

7. *Fundamentals of Hymn Playing on Piano*

A foundational guide that covers essential skills needed to play hymns confidently. Topics include reading hymn notation, understanding common hymn structures, and basic accompaniment patterns. The PDF also offers practice schedules and troubleshooting tips for common challenges. This book is perfect for beginners seeking a structured learning path.

8. *Contemporary Hymns for Piano: Modern Arrangements*

This collection features popular modern hymns arranged for piano with a fresh, contemporary style. The arrangements include chord charts and rhythmic variations to suit today's worship settings. The PDF provides suggestions for combining traditional and modern hymn styles. Ideal for pianists looking to diversify their hymn repertoire.

9. *The Complete Hymn Pianist: Techniques and Repertoire*

A comprehensive volume that combines technical exercises with a large selection of hymns spanning various eras. It addresses sight-reading, improvisation, and stylistic interpretation. The PDF includes practice aids and a glossary of musical terms related to hymn playing. This book is perfect for pianists aiming to master hymn playing in a well-rounded manner.

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How to Play Hymns on Piano PDF

Ebook Title: "Hymn Harmony: A Beginner's Guide to Playing Hymns on the Piano"

Contents:

Introduction: Understanding the Basics of Hymn Structure and Piano Playing.

Chapter 1: Reading Hymn Music: Note values, time signatures, key signatures, and basic chord progressions.

Chapter 2: Essential Chords for Hymns: Major and minor chords, inversions, and seventh chords.

Practice exercises included.

Chapter 3: Playing Simple Hymns: Step-by-step tutorials for playing several popular hymns with simplified arrangements.

Chapter 4: Adding Expression and Dynamics: Techniques for creating a richer, more expressive performance.

Chapter 5: Improvisation and Variations: Simple techniques for improvising and adding your own variations to hymns.

Chapter 6: Accompanying Singers: Tips and techniques for effectively accompanying singers.

Chapter 7: Resource Guide: Websites, apps, and sheet music resources.

Conclusion: Continuing your hymn-playing journey.

How to Play Hymns on Piano: A Comprehensive Guide

Learning to play hymns on the piano is a rewarding experience, connecting you with rich musical traditions and allowing you to share your musical gifts with others. Whether you're a complete beginner or have some piano experience, this guide will equip you with the skills and knowledge to play a variety of hymns with confidence. This comprehensive guide will take you from understanding basic music notation to confidently accompanying singers.

Introduction: Understanding the Basics

Before diving into the intricacies of hymn playing, it's essential to grasp fundamental concepts. Hymns generally follow a straightforward structure, often based on simple chord progressions and predictable melodic lines. Familiarity with basic music theory—including note values (whole, half, quarter, etc.), time signatures (common time, 3/4 time), and key signatures (major and minor keys)—is crucial. If you're unfamiliar with these concepts, consider supplementing this guide with introductory music theory resources (many are available online for free). Understanding basic rhythm and tempo is also vital for a good performance. Practice counting rhythms aloud before playing, ensuring you maintain a steady beat.

Chapter 1: Reading Hymn Music

Hymn music often uses a simplified notation system, making it relatively accessible to beginners. Focus on understanding the clef (treble clef is most common for hymns), note heads, stems, and rests. Practice reading simple melodies slowly and accurately. Gradually increase speed as your proficiency improves. Pay close attention to time signatures; they dictate the rhythmic structure of the hymn. Key signatures indicate the major or minor key of the hymn, influencing the chords used in accompaniment. Learning to identify key signatures quickly will significantly aid your playing.

Chapter 2: Essential Chords for Hymns

Hymns are primarily built on a foundation of major and minor chords. Mastering these chords is fundamental to accompanying hymns effectively. Start by learning the basic triads (three-note chords) in C major, G major, and F major, followed by their relative minor counterparts (A minor, E minor, and D minor respectively). These keys are common in hymnody. Practice switching smoothly between these chords. Once comfortable, explore chord inversions (changing the order of notes within a chord) to add variety and richness to your accompaniment. Seventh chords (adding a seventh note to a triad) can add harmonic interest but are not essential for beginners. Practice exercises are crucial to solidifying your chord knowledge; the ebook will provide many.

Chapter 3: Playing Simple Hymns

This chapter will provide step-by-step tutorials for playing several well-known hymns. These tutorials will include simplified arrangements, focusing on essential chords and melodies. Each tutorial will break down the hymn into manageable sections, guiding you through the fingerings and rhythm. Practice each section slowly and accurately before moving on. Start with simpler hymns and gradually work towards more complex ones. The aim is to build confidence and solidify your understanding of the concepts learned in previous chapters. Remember to listen actively to the hymn's melody and try to feel the rhythm.

Chapter 4: Adding Expression and Dynamics

Playing hymns solely with consistent volume and tempo can result in a monotonous performance. Adding expression and dynamics is key to creating a more engaging and emotionally resonant experience. Experiment with variations in tempo (speed) and dynamics (volume). Use crescendo (gradually increasing volume) and diminuendo (gradually decreasing volume) to highlight certain phrases or sections of the hymn. Use articulation (the way notes are played - legato or staccato) to emphasize the musical phrasing. Listen to recordings of experienced hymn players to learn how they employ dynamics and expression.

Chapter 5: Improvisation and Variations

Once you are comfortable playing hymns from sheet music, consider exploring improvisation. Begin by adding simple embellishments to the melody, such as grace notes or passing tones. Experiment with different chord voicings (arrangement of notes within a chord) to add harmonic variety. You can create simple variations by changing the rhythm or adding a counter-melody. Improvisation enhances your personal expression and understanding of the music. Remember to keep it simple and

tasteful, always serving the hymn's overall message.

Chapter 6: Accompanying Singers

Accompanying singers requires a different approach than playing solo. Focus on listening attentively to the singer's voice, providing a solid harmonic foundation without overpowering their voice. Pay close attention to their phrasing and dynamics, adjusting your accompaniment accordingly. Practice playing hymns with a friend or family member to develop your skills in accompanying. Be patient and supportive, adjusting your playing as needed to facilitate a harmonious performance.

Chapter 7: Resource Guide

This chapter includes a list of helpful websites, mobile applications, and sheet music resources for further learning. It provides links to websites with free hymnals, apps for practicing scales and chords, and reputable places to purchase hymn sheet music. It also includes resources for learning music theory and improving your piano playing techniques. This guide helps you continue learning and expanding your hymn playing skills beyond the ebook.

Conclusion: Continuing Your Hymn-Playing Journey

Learning to play hymns on the piano is an ongoing journey. The more you practice and experiment, the more confident and expressive you will become. Continue to explore new hymns, expanding your repertoire. Seek out opportunities to play for others, sharing your musical gifts with your community. Remember to have fun and enjoy the process of learning and growing as a musician.

FAQs

1. What level of piano experience is needed to use this guide? This guide is designed for beginners with little to no prior piano experience, although those with some basic skills will find it beneficial.
2. How many hymns are included in the tutorial section? The ebook includes tutorials for at least five popular and commonly played hymns.
3. Can I use this guide to learn to accompany myself while singing? Absolutely! The guide focuses on building a strong foundation in playing, making it ideal for self-accompaniment.

4. What kind of piano or keyboard do I need? Any piano or keyboard with 61 or more keys will suffice.
5. Is musical notation knowledge necessary? Basic understanding of musical notation is helpful but not strictly required. The guide introduces these concepts in a straightforward manner.
6. How much time should I dedicate to practicing each day? Even 15-30 minutes of daily practice can yield significant progress.
7. Can I download the ebook directly after purchase? Yes, immediately following a purchase, you will be able to download the PDF.
8. What if I get stuck on a particular section? The ebook provides thorough explanations and exercises. However, online resources and further research can be very helpful.
9. Are there any printable practice exercises included? Yes, the ebook includes printable practice exercises for chords, scales, and rhythms.

Related Articles:

1. Easy Hymns for Beginners on Piano: Focuses on extremely simplified arrangements of popular hymns, perfect for absolute beginners.
2. Understanding Hymn Harmonies: A deeper dive into the harmonic structure of hymns, explaining chord progressions and inversions.
3. Improvising Simple Piano Accompaniments to Hymns: Advanced techniques for improvising around hymn melodies.
4. Playing Hymns in Different Styles: Explores playing hymns in various styles, such as gospel, classical, or contemporary.
5. The History and Significance of Hymns in Music: A cultural and historical perspective on the role of hymns in musical history.
6. Hymn Transposition for Different Voice Ranges: Explains how to transpose hymns to accommodate different vocal ranges.
7. Using Technology to Learn Hymns on Piano: Examines various apps and software that can assist in learning hymns.
8. Common Mistakes to Avoid When Playing Hymns: Highlights common pitfalls to avoid and how to improve technique.
9. Building Confidence in Public Hymn Performances: Tips and strategies for reducing performance anxiety and delivering confident performances.

how to play hymns on piano pdf: *The Church Musician, Level 1* David Carr Glover, Earl Ricker, *The Church Musician, Level 1* expands on major concepts and skills taught at the Primer Level. The 5-finger approach using Middle C position, C Major 5-finger position, G Major 5-finger position, and F Major 5-finger position is presented in a fresh, musically appealing way using familiar and new sacred music. Students are introduced to all the notes of the grand staff, elementary chord playing, eighth notes, transposition, and technic exercises. Musicianship is built through the use of dynamics, coloristic experimentation with the pedal, and motivating and exciting

pieces. Titles: * God Is So Good * Give Me Oil in My Lamp * He Is Lord * Now the Day Is Over * When I Survey the Wondrous Cross * Amazing Grace * Stand Up, Stand Up for Jesus * Near to the Heart of God * Now Thank We All Our God * Christ the Lord Is Risen Today * Go Tell It on the Mountain and many more hymns of faith. Harmonically interesting teacher duet parts are featured for many of the hymns.

how to play hymns on piano pdf: Sunday Solos for Piano: Preludes, Offertories & Postludes Hal Leonard Corp., 2006-11-01 (Piano Solo Songbook). 30 blended selections, perfect for the church pianist. Songs include: All Creatures of Our God and King * All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name * Ancient of Days * Be Thou My Vision * Blessed Assurance * Come into His Presence * Come, Now Is the Time to Worship * Crown Him with Many Crowns * Give Thanks * Great Is the Lord * He Is Exalted * Here I Am to Worship * Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty * I Can Only Imagine * I Love to Tell the Story * I Sing the Mighty Power of God * I Worship You, Almighty God * Majesty * A Mighty Fortress Is Our God * More Precious Than Silver * My Tribute * Open the Eyes of My Heart * People Need the Lord * Shine, Jesus, Shine * Shine on Us * Spirit of God, Descend upon My Heart * To God Be the Glory * Via Dolorosa * When Morning Gilds the Skies * Word of God Speak.

how to play hymns on piano pdf: Play Hymns, Book 3 Melody Bober, Robert D. Vandall, 2011-01-18 In Play Hymns, Book 3, pianists young and old will find accessible arrangements of beloved hymns, which are a continuous source of inspiration and an important part of worship services. Titles: * Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah * I Need Thee Every Hour * I Sing the Mighty Power of God * I Surrender All * It Is Well with My Soul * O the Deep, Deep Love of Jesus * O Worship the King * Steal Away * Trust and Obey * When We All Get to Heaven

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2000-02 A collection of cross-denominational hymns spanning several centuries, emphasizing original texts and verses.

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how to play hymns on piano pdf: *Stories of the Hymns* Glenn Rawson, J. Tonioli, 2021-10-30 Hymns are a form of worship and prayer that are capable of expressing what mere words alone cannot. Many favorite Christian hymns and their authors have incredible stories that will make you listen to and sing these songs in an entirely different way. Our team spent thousands of hours researching and finding the most inspiring stories that will uplift those who take time to read or listen.

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how to play hymns on piano pdf: *Hymns Made Easy for Piano Book 2* Gail Smith, 2011-02-24 This collection presents nineteen hymns in arrangements for the progressing beginning piano student. the left hand uses block chords, broken chords, and Alberti bass, and the right hand introduces two-note chords and sixteenth notes. the pieces are in the keys of C, F, and G. Lyrics are included. Most of the selections in this book are the same as in Book 1, but the arrangements are more difficult. Recommended for hymn playing by the Federation of Music Clubs.

how to play hymns on piano pdf: *Alfred's Basic Adult Piano Course* Willard A. Palmer, Morton Manus, Amanda Vick Lethco, 1997-12 This book begins with an extensive review of the chords and keys previously studied, using fresh and interesting material that will provide enjoyment as well as reinforcement. Particularly noteworthy is the systematic presentation of chords in all positions in both hands. Titles: America the Beautiful * Arkansas Traveler * The Battle Hymn of the Republic * Black is the Color of My True Love's Hair * Brahms Lullaby * Canon in D (Pachelbel) * Deep River * Down in the Valley * Farewell to Thee (Aloha Oe) * Fascination * A Festive Rondeau * Frankie and Johnnie * The Hokey-Pokey * The House of the Rising Sun * Introduction and Dance * La Cucaracha * La Donna E Mobile * La Raspa * Light and Blue * Loch Lomond * Lonesome Road * The Marriage of Figaro * Morning Has Broken * Musetta's Waltz * Musette * Night Song * Nobody Knows the Trouble I've Seen * Polyvetsian Dances * Pomp and Circumstance No. 1 * The Riddle * Rock-a My Soul * Roman Holiday * Sakura * Scherzo * Space Shuttle Blues * Swingin' Sevenths * Theme from Symphony No. 6 (Tchaikovsky) * Tumbalalaika * Village Dance * Waves of the Danube * When

Johnny Comes Marching Home * You're in My Heart

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key xylophone, melodica, synthesizer, or piano. All of them need to have special note stickers for beginners. These transparent removable stickers are available on Amazon for 88/61/54/49 key instruments and they can really help in your musical experience. We don't use most musical symbols and notations here: the length of the notes, bars, beams, etc. This book is aimed at your first musical experience no matter what age you are. There is no wrong time or not enough preparation to take up spiritual pursuits. Table of Contents Amazing Grace Babylon's Falling Christ Was Born on Christmas Day Elijah Rock Every Time I Feel the Spirit Go, Tell It on the Mountain God Is So Good Great Big Stars Great Day He's God the Whole World in His Hands Holy, Holy, Holy I've Got Joy Joy I've Got Peace Like a River Jesus Loves Me Jesus Walked This Lonesome Valley Joy to the World! The Lord is Come! Just As I Am Kumbaya, My Lord Michael Row the Boat Ashore Nobody Knows the Trouble I've Seen Praise Him, All You Little Children Shall We Gather at the River Silent Night, Holy Night Sinner Man Soldier of the Cross Somebody's Knockin' at Your Door Song of Praise Swing Love, Sweet Chariot The Little Light of Mine There's a Meeting Here Tonight We Are Climbing Jacob's Ladder We Are Marching (Siyahamba) We Shall Overcome When the Saints Go Marching In Who Built the Ark? Will the Circle Be Unbroken

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