HYMNS

SAM ROBSON

HYMNS
SAM ROBSON

1   **I Need Thee, O I Need Thee**   3'46
    Words by Annie Hawks (1835-1918), music by Robert Lowry (1826-1899)

2   **It Is Well With My Soul**   4'52
    Words by Horatio Spafford (1828-1888), music by Philip Bliss (1838-1876)

3   **How Great Thou Art**   4'24
    Words and music by Stuart Hine (1899-1989)

4   **Be Thou My Vision**   3'55
    Words by Eleanor Hull (1860-1935), music traditional

5   **Total Praise**   3'01
    Words and music by Richard Smallwood (b.1948)

6   **O Love That Will Not Let Me Go**   4'13
    Words by George Matheson (1842-1906), music by Albert Peace (1844-1912)

7   **O Valiant Hearts**   3'54
    Words by John Arkwright (1872-1954), music by Charles Harris (1865-1936)

8   **I Believe In A Hill Called Mount Calvary**   3'55
    Words by Dale Oldham (1903-1984), Gloria Gaither (b.1942) and William Gaither (b.1936),
    music by William Gaither

9   **Great Is Thy Faithfulness**   4'07
    Words by Thomas Chisholm (1866-1960), music by William Runyan (1870-1957)

10 **Worship Medley**   5'19
    Words and music by Kurt Carr (b.1964)

                                                                                    41'28

All tracks arranged and performed by Sam Robson

I discovered *a cappella* by accident on one of the most popular music/video sharing websites, known as YouTube. A stray link to a live barbershop quartet caught my attention, and on seeing this clip it made me realise the incredible potential to produce a rich sound using only the power of the voice.

Fast forward to the present day, and I was again doing my usual browsing of music videos, when I stumbled across some live concert footage of the Voices of Lee Choir singing *All Rise* arranged by Dave Williamson. It was the sheer power of the performance combined with the incredible chord vocalisations and pitch range that blew me away.

After seeing this video I decided I wanted to develop my arranging skills so that I could recreate the feeling I got from the music. It was extremely hard work to arrange parts for up to nine voices, especially for someone that had never received much training in music theory such as myself. It was a case of trial and error with many attempts finding their way to the bin, but with each attempt my knowledge grew, and the ideas that were so tightly locked in my head were flowing more freely onto the paper.

It was with great excitement that I shared my first *a cappella* video – the hymn *It Is Well With My Soul* – on YouTube. The positive comments and attention that grew from the video were completely unexpected and on a new level for me. For the five years up to that point I had uploaded my videos to YouTube, but despite being well received they were still essentially underground. This was something completely different.

I immediately started upon another arrangement titled *I Need Thee, O I Need Thee*. Upon sharing this, the views rocketed and it began appearing on many blogs and websites globally. This helped spread its popularity ever further and soon it soared to over a million views, gaining more exposure every day.

It is humbling to receive messages on a daily basis saying how much my arrangements have helped people in their moments of weakness; I had never conceived of the idea that music could help or heal people emotionally. Initially it was overwhelming – especially being that in my day-to-day life I'm nowhere near as extrovert as the videos may have you believe – but over time I began to welcome the feedback and used it as fuel to develop my music for bigger and better things.

I hope that these ten arrangements of some of my favourite hymns can bring joy and inspire you in the way that I was inspired when I stumbled across that first video.

Sam Robson