



**Sing Alleluia**, the supplement to the **Australian Hymn Book**, was published in 1987. Containing unfamiliar hymns, songs, psalms, chants, rounds and communion settings, it became apparent that congregations could benefit from introductory sessions which explored creative ways of using music in worship. To this end a small 'ad hoc' group of singers and instrumentalists from Uniting Churches in Melbourne offered the possibility of workshops.

Apart from worship leadership, conducting retreats and conferences, a small group presented three sessions on Christian Television and recorded the entire 105 items on cassette with Move Records over a period of two years.

Recordings were made in Wesley Church in Melbourne, often on cold winter nights. The intention was to demonstrate what a small occasional group could contribute to a diverse presentation of worship song.

Meanwhile invitations followed which led to visits across the state of Victoria for two years during which time over 40 volunteers participated, forming the 'Sing Alleluia Music Ministry Team' directed by Wendy McLean. At any one visit there would be four singers, a pianist, possibly a bass guitarist and a woodwind quartet for whom parts were arranged.

In compiling this CD there have been criteria:

- to use only material not already on the **Together in Song – A Selection** – 2 CD set commissioned by the AHB company.
- word changes from **Sing Alleluia** to **Together In Song** are minimal.
- to select a wide variety of words and musical styles including some which may be for occasional use only, or which may at first appear less accessible.
- to present selections with diverse instrumental accompaniments.

The intention remains - to encourage the belief that what a group of mostly amateurs can do, others can do, to enrich the peoples' song to the glory of God.

*Wendy McLean – August 2004*

**1** TIS 99 (i) (ii) **God, we praise you, God, we bless you - from Te Deum**

Here are two musical settings of the ancient hymn known as the TE DEUM, versified by Rev. Christopher Idle. The first is set to RUSTINGTON by Parry; the second popular tune SALTASH comes from USA.

**2** TIS 149 **This is my Father's world**

Malcolm Williamson wrote the music for these words whilst he was resident composer in Princeton USA, 1970-71. Dr. Babcock had written verses of this hymn in 1901 and a niece recently added the third stanza.

**3** TIS 248 **When Christ was lifted from the eartha**

Dr. Brian Wren wrote this hymn, entitled 'Living together', arising from controversy and tension in his congregation. It is intended for unifying praise, (influenced by Romans 15:7, John 12:32-33) and suits the tune WINCHCOMBE remarkably.

**4** TIS 253 **O Lord Jesus Marrkapmirr**

The term "Marrkapmirr" refers to Jesus as altogether lovely, worthy of affection and profound respect. This gem comes from the Aboriginal people of Milingimbi, an island off Arnhem Land.

**5** TIS 254 **O changeless Christ, for ever new**

When Bishop Timothy Dudley-Smith in 1981 wrote these words based on scriptural passages he recommended the tune ST. BOTOLPH, written while the English musician

G. A. Slater was organist at St. Botolph's in Boston.

**6** TIS 282 **The voice of God goes out to all the world**

The hymn draws on numerous prophetic texts and appears in many hymnals. The tune ST. LUCIA was commissioned from Colin Brumby who was at that time on the staff of the Queensland University in the suburb of St. Lucia.

**7** TIS 285 **Your coming, Lord, to earth in Bethlehem**

Professor Wesley Milgate, executive editor of AHB/SA wrote the text for which Canon Lawrence Bartlett, Chairman of the Committee, supplied the tune GRACE (v3, 4, 5) in response to the Hymn Society of America's search for new Advent Hymns. The alternate tune CLIFF TOWN (v1, 2) is by Dr. Erik Routley.

**8** TIS 327 **In the fields near Bethlehem**

This Song is an English translation of a Chinese poem, based on the Christmas narrative from St Luke's Gospel, sung to the melody YENCHING by American Dr Bliss Wiart who was Director of the Music Department at Yenching University in Beijing.

**9** TIS 356 **Here hangs a man discarded**

Dr Wren's hymn was headed "Hope against hope" – when the anxiety of a life that seems empty and meaningless is assured by the acceptance of the Christ who himself had sensed the withdrawal of God in his time of

need. Peter Cutt's tune was written for these words.

**10** TIS 357 **When his time was over the palms lay where they fell**

Adelaide Lutheran writer Robin Mann wrote this hymn for a presentation of the passion story in 1980.

**11** TIS 383 **Joyful the morning when Jesus Christ is risen!**

Coming also from the Torres Strait Islands, this celebration of Easter and the joy of the resurrection is set to a solemn (baptismal) tune from Moa Island.

**12** TIS 391 **Come, God's people, sing for joy**

Rev Keith Pearson's hymn, based on that of St. John of Damascus, (AHB 278) seeks to create relevance in language and references whilst retaining the traditional structure and tune.

**13** TIS 470 **Rejoice in God's saints, today and all days**

'In Celebration of Saints' resulted from a commission to Dr. Pratt Green. The tune PADERBORN was derived from a German folk melody.

**14** TIS 491 **Father welcomes all his children**

Robin Mann of Adelaide wrote this hymn to celebrate the birth and baptism of his first child KRISTIN.

**15** TIS 528 **The Son of God proclaim**

Rev Basil Bridge's hymn was written for a

compilation in the UK on the subject of "The Lord's Supper" and is set to the tune written by the American Richard Wayne Dirksen

**16 TIS 537 Let us talents and tongues employ**

The Dutch Dr Fred Kaan has written verses containing numerous biblical references – for music by Doreen Potter, adapted and arranged by Alister Spence from a Jamaican folk melody.

**17 TIS 540 Christians lift your hearts and voices**

In 1977 Canon Bowers wrote this eucharistic hymn which says that we follow our Lord's example and command.

**18 TIS 542 Far beyond our mind's grasp**

Composer Fr James Minchin, an Melbourne Anglican Vicar, paraphrased this hymn by musician Dr Feliciano, set to a melody based on a Philippino folksong.

**19 TIS 624 Christ be my leader by night as by day**

A traditional Scottish melody is the setting for words by Bishop Timothy Dudley-Smith, prompted by John 14:6, "I am the Way, the Truth and the Life"

**20 TIS 636 God has spoken to his people**

This lively Israeli folk tune in the Hasidic tradition has words by Father Willard Jabusch.

**21 TIS 644 Safe in the shadow of the Lord**

English Bishop Timothy Dudley-Smith

paraphrased Psalm 91, with music by Rev Norman Warren. The repeated words "I trust in him" affirms the confident keynote of the psalm.

**22 TIS 645 As man and woman we were made**

Dr Brian Wren's wedding song, written in 1973, has each stanza containing a theme - Love, Joy, Hope and Peace. The song is set to the familiar SUSSEX CAROL

**23 TIS 646 God is our song**

Dr Fred Pratt Green, a Methodist minister and distinguished poet from UK wrote these words inspired by Ps 118:14. The music is by Sydney Watson, also of England.

**24 TIS 647 Comfort, comfort all my people**

Australian composer Robin Mann, a member of the Lutheran Church of South Australia, was inspired by Isaiah and a Psalm in this setting of "comfort, comfort"

**25 TIS 650 Brother, sister, let me serve you**

'The Servant Song' began in 1977 when Richard Gillard jotted verse 3 on a piece of paper. Later he completed the words and music and it has become widely loved.

**26 TIS 656 Jesus, my Lord**

Canon Gaunt headed this hymn 'Best of all friends'. Dr. Gerald Knight who was director of the Royal School of Church music, wrote the music.

**27 TIS 671 Made in God's likeness, moved by the Spirit**

This song was written as the theme for the Biennial Conference of the Christian Dance Fellowship of Australia. It speaks of the dedication of artistic and other human creativity to the service of God and his purposes, learning from the creatures how this might be done.

**28 TIS 672 Lord of earth and all creation**

This is a hymn for Australia - words by Honor and Michael Thwaites, with music commissioned from Robert Boughen of Brisbane, written at Bennelong Point where the Opera House is situated in Sydney. Note the reference to the Aboriginal Dreamtime.

**29 TIS 713 Donna nobis pacem**

Donna nobis Pacem - 'Grant us Peace, Lord' comes from the Taize community in France, and the English verses are from the Grail translation.

**30 TIS 714 Eat this bread, drink this cup**

"Eat this bread, drink this cup" comes from Taize, and the verses are extracts from John 6, to be sung in a meditative manner.

**31 TIS 715 Everything that has breath**

A traditional anonymous 4-part round has words literally translated by Mrs Eva Greig from the Czech version of Psalm 150 (set to this melody).

**32 TIS 716 Father, we adore you**

A simple well-known round by Terry Coelho of California, 1972.

**33 TIS 727 In the presence of your people**

Brent Chambers of New Zealand wrote this "Celebration Song", giving it words reminiscent of passages in the Psalms, especially Ps 22:3, 22

**34 TIS 730 Jesus, remember me**

The words of the thief on the cross are a supplication which may effectively be used as a prayer response. This ostinato comes from Jacques Berthier in Taize.

Notes: *Wendy McLean, with acknowledgement to Wesley Milgate for the background information provided in the **Companion to Sing Alleluia***

Recorded in Wesley Church July August December 1989, May July August 1990, February March May 1991

**Arranger / pianist:** Janet Perkins

**Organist:** Colin Jenkins

**Flutes:** Alison Forsyth, Beth Dun, Lyndal McLean

**Clarinets:** Ian McKinnon, Ian Dun

**Oboe:** Barbara McKinnon, Hannah Cooper

**Bassoon:** David McKinnon

**Bass guitar:** Paul Gaudion

**Percussion:** John Wise

**Speaker:** Rev Peter Blackwood

**Sopranos:** Wendy McLean, Megan McLaughlin, Judith McKnight, Kristina Macrae, Chris Parker

**Altos:** Colleen Wood, Jacci Simpson, Lyn Fowler, Lyndal McLean, Judy Greenhill, Clare Rush

**Tenors:** Trevor Nock, Stuart Littler, Colin Rush, John Cleghorn, Houston Dunleavy

**Basses:** Bruce Macrae, Chris Simpson, Michael McLaughlin, Ron Gaudion

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