

Required Hymn Instructions

Hymns and congregational songs are incredibly important to the spiritual life of congregations. This importance requires great care and preparation, and tests any musician's skill in leading others in singing. A competent hymn-player both leads and supports the congregation, creating a fulfilling spiritual experience for the congregation.

Expectations for playing the required hymn are:

1. The playing of the hymn should show the same care of preparation as any other piece of literature. Attention to meter, rhythm, tempo, phrasing, and overall musicality is expected.
2. Applicants will be expected to play the hymn as if they are leading a large competent congregation, playing in an appropriate manner which interprets the text of the stanzas and encourages congregational singing.
3. Applicants will play an introduction to the hymn which adequately prepares the congregation to sing the hymn. If desired, applicants may improvise an introduction or choose a composed introduction.
4. Applicants will then play two (2) verses. The first verse will be expected to be played in a straight-forward manner. The applicant may choose to improvise or play a different accompaniment for the second verse. Applicants will be expected to demonstrate appropriate sensitivity to the differing texts of the verses.
5. Organ students will be expected to choose appropriate registrations for the introduction and 2 verses. Organ students may also choose to play on manuals only.

A Mighty Fortress is Our God

(EIN' FESTE BURG. 8,7,8,7,6,6,6,7)

Martin Luther, 1529

Martin Luther, 1529

Translated by Frederick H. Hedge, 1853

The first system of musical notation consists of two staves. The upper staff is in treble clef and the lower staff is in bass clef. Both are in common time (C). The melody in the upper staff begins with a quarter note G4, followed by quarter notes A4, B4, and C5. The bass line consists of chords: G2-B2, A2-C3, B2-D3, and C3-E3.

The second system of musical notation consists of two staves. The upper staff continues the melody with quarter notes D5, E5, and F5. The bass line continues with chords: D3-F3, E3-G3, F3-A3, and E3-G3.

The third system of musical notation consists of two staves. The upper staff has a half note G4, followed by quarter notes A4, B4, and C5. The bass line has a half note G2, followed by quarter notes A2, B2, and C3.

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The fourth system of musical notation consists of two staves. The upper staff has a half note G4, followed by quarter notes A4, B4, and C5. The bass line has a half note G2, followed by quarter notes A2, B2, and C3.

A mighty fortress is our God, a bulwark never failing;
Our helper He, amid the flood of mortal ills prevailing:
For still our ancient foe doth seek to work us woe;
His craft and pow'r are great, and, armed with cruel hate,
On earth is not his equal.

And though this world, with devils filled, should threaten to undo us,
We will not fear, for God hath willed His truth to triumph through us;
The Prince of Darkness grim, we tremble not for him;
His rage we can endure, for lo, his doom is sure,
One little word shall fell him.