

WHAT WONDROUS LOVE

PROGRAM NOTES

The haunting melody of *What Wondrous Love Is This* is derived from a popular 18th century English ballad about the pirate Captain Kidd. The melody is sung in Dorian mode, with a lowered third and seventh, giving the tune its quiet, austere quality.

The text and melody were first published together in the United States in *The Southern Harmony*, a book of shape note hymns compiled by William Walker in the mid-1800s, who noted that it was a popular old Southern tune. Samuel Barber composed a theme and variations for organ on this melody called *Wondrous Love: Variations On A Shape Note Hymn* in 1958, to dedicate a new organ at Christ Episcopal Church in Grosse Pointe, Michigan.

What Wondrous Love was first included in a standard hymnal in 1966 by the United Methodist Book of Hymns. Today, it is a widely known and beloved hymn, commonly utilized by many denominations.

About the arranger – Christa Grix is a harpist, arranger and writer living near Detroit, Michigan. For more information, please visit www.ChristaGrix.com

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Harmonics are written where played, sounding one octave higher.

What Wondrous Love Is This

Southern Harmony

Christa Grix

♩ = 96

Harp

mf

Musical notation for Harp, measures 1-3. Treble clef, 4/4 time. Treble staff: G4 quarter, A4 quarter, B4 quarter, C5 quarter, D5 quarter, E5 quarter, F5 quarter, G5 quarter. Bass staff: G2 quarter, A2 quarter, B2 quarter, C3 quarter, D3 quarter, E3 quarter, F3 quarter, G3 quarter. Dynamics: *mf*.

4

Musical notation for measures 4-6. Treble clef, 4/4 time. Treble staff: G4 quarter, A4 quarter, B4 quarter, C5 quarter, D5 quarter, E5 quarter, F5 quarter, G5 quarter. Bass staff: G2 quarter, A2 quarter, B2 quarter, C3 quarter, D3 quarter, E3 quarter, F3 quarter, G3 quarter. Dynamics: *mf*.

9

Musical notation for measures 7-9. Treble clef, 4/4 time. Treble staff: G4 quarter, A4 quarter, B4 quarter, C5 quarter, D5 quarter, E5 quarter, F5 quarter, G5 quarter. Bass staff: G2 quarter, A2 quarter, B2 quarter, C3 quarter, D3 quarter, E3 quarter, F3 quarter, G3 quarter. Dynamics: *mf*.

12

Musical notation for measures 10-12. Treble clef, 4/4 time. Treble staff: G4 quarter, A4 quarter, B4 quarter, C5 quarter, D5 quarter, E5 quarter, F5 quarter, G5 quarter. Bass staff: G2 quarter, A2 quarter, B2 quarter, C3 quarter, D3 quarter, E3 quarter, F3 quarter, G3 quarter. Dynamics: *mf*.