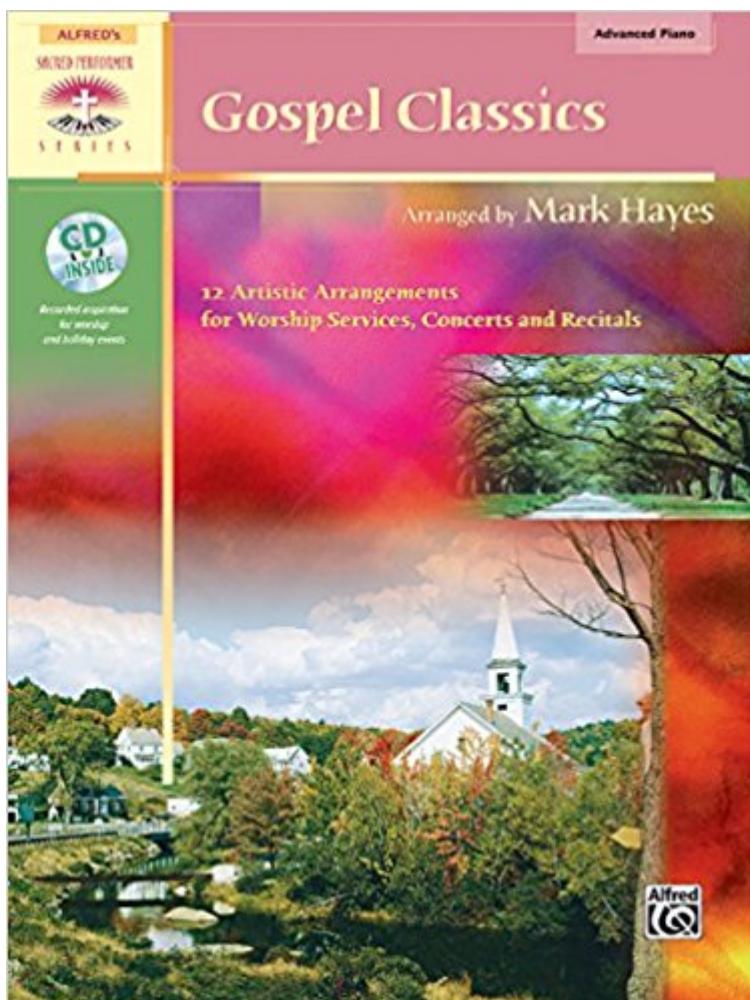


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# Gospel Classics: 12 Artistic Arrangements For Worship Services, Concerts And Recitals, Book & CD (Sacred Performer Collections)



## Synopsis

Gospel Classics reflects the importance of hymns and gospel songs in the musical fabric of Mark Hayes's life. The skillful arranger has artistically "breathed new life" into the well-known gospel songs included in this collection for advanced pianists. Church musicians and worshippers alike are certain to take great enjoyment in experiencing these fresh new settings and lush harmonies.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

As the other reviewers have said, this book is excellent and truly advanced. Yet, it's not so advanced that an advanced pianist will have to work months on each song. The arrangements have a lot of grandeur, and often flowing sweetness, too. This book is neither a boring copycat of every other book nor a compilation of bizarre arrangements full of discords. It's fresh - incredible to hear and play. Here is a listing of the contents, since I'm sure many would like to know:

1. Sweet By and By (5 Pages)
2. He HIDETH My Soul (4 Pages)
3. When I Can Read my Title Clear (4 Pages)
4. Heavenly Sunlight (6 Pages)
5. I Will Arise and Go to Jesus (4 Pages)
6. In the Garden (5 Pages)
7. I'll Fly Away (5 Pages)
8. There is a Balm in Gilead (5 Pages)
9. When the Roll is Called up Yonder (6 Pages)
10. On Jordan's Stormy Banks (4 Pages)
11. The Old Rugged Cross (5 Pages)
12. How Great Thou Art (7 Pages)

I would include the keys they are written in, but there is at least one key change in every song, sometimes several. Often the songs have complicated keys (such as 4 or 5 flats) with interludes of easy ones. It keeps the songs interesting.

The Old Rugged Cross and How Great Thou Art are two of the most powerful hymns ever written. The arrangements in this book bring out the depth and beauty of these songs in a way that is both challenging and rewarding for the advanced pianist. The keys and harmonies are complex, but the overall effect is one of reverence and awe. The piano parts are well-written, and the vocal parts are clear and easy to sing. The arrangements are not just copies of existing ones, but are original and creative. The book is well-organized, with clear page numbers and easy-to-read notation. The paper quality is good, and the overall presentation is professional. This is a must-have for any advanced pianist who wants to add some depth and complexity to their repertoire. The book is well worth the price, and I highly recommend it to anyone who loves hymns and gospel music.

Great Thou Art are very advanced and absolutely thrilling to play. Definitely my favorites!

I absolutely LOVE Mark Hayes' arrangements! They incorporate a lot of great jazz harmonies and rhythms, without EVER losing the heart and sound of the original song. Some of them are CRAZY difficult to play, and take a LOT of work to learn, but the results are well worth it. This book is definitely NOT for the beginner, though. It requires intermediate to advanced skills to play these multi-layered and complex arrangements. I particularly liked the lively arrangement of "When the Roll is Called Up Yonder" with a little "When We All Get To Heaven" thrown in for good measure. The wistful "I Will Arise and Go to Jesus" is really beautiful! Really, there is NOTHING in this book that is not simply outstanding!

THIS BOOK IS FANTASTIC! I have nearly all of Mark Hayes other books, but this one is definately my favorite. Each piece is so incredibly arranged that it is completely like nothing else you'll ever have played. Note: this book is for ADVANCED pianist. That's mostly why I love it. If you have reached that level, you will appreciate the fact that these pieces require a little bit of practice and present a fantastic opportunity to showcase musicianship and expressiveness. There is not a single piece in this book that I will not perform on Sunday morning. From the beautifully serene "In The Garden" to the spunky "Heavenly Sunshine" each is an instant favorite. The arrangement of "The Old Rugged Cross" is the singlehandedly most unusual I've ever played, and is so moving that it brings tears to your eyes. It starts out with a very Rachmaninoff-style opening fanfare, followed by a solemn and mournful pass through the hymn as interpreted in a minor key. It's very unusual and different. My daughter jokes when I play it that it's probably what it would sound like if Dracula played the piano. HA! It goes on, in the minor key, building to a dramatic climax....then it's almost like a wave of sunshine washes over the scene and it moves to a beautiful verse with rich chords written in the more familiar major key. It represents the darkness, loss and desolation of the cross that turns to joy unspeakable. I am planning on playing that on Good Friday. The arrangement of "I'll Fly Away" has a ragtime flair that I just love. It starts out with a traditionally-chorded verse, then when you turn the page, all heck breaks loose! Love it! "Sweet By and By" is just beautiful the entire way through. Hayes comments that it expresses what he thinks heaven must be like, and I agree with him. Just beautiful. I could go on. This is one of those books that I'll probably go ahead and order a second copy of because it's already getting worn from me playing through it at least every other day.

Before ordering this book, I had never tried any Mark Hayes stuff before, so I didn't know what to expect. This book left me breathless! I absolutely love it! Nice variety! A bluesy piece, 2 jazzier ones, 2 ballads, and the rest just gorgeous! A word of warning to the advanced pianists -- these are not very challenging pieces... even the timing isn't a big deal **ESPECIALLY** if you listen to the enclosed CD - why, it's practically cheating! The only other drawback, would be the length of the pieces. When I read the subtitle ('For Concerts and Recitals'), I thought they would be long, concert-like pieces. They average 3-4 pages each. The only one I would do for a concert would be 'How Great Thou Art.' It's the longest, and the most challenging. But really, they are still very well put together. I play them for fun or at church. They're a snap to learn and I really enjoy playing them. Another great thing is how Mark Hayes puts in his performance notes. He really reads the words to a song before he sets about to arrange it. That always helps! Mark Hayes definitely has the knack!

As a retired church musician, I have enjoyed playing Mark Hayes arrangements in worship services for years. This book is a great addition to my collection. "How Great Thou Art" is the most challenging, but also the most outstanding selection from the book. The arrangements are written in a variety of styles, with "I'll Fly Away" being one of my favorites. Great writing by Mark Hayes!

Always love Mark Hayes arrangements. One of the few arrangers who has many creative ideas and his chord progressions and motifs are not all the same. Always something to use. I often assign his arrangements to students if they are early advanced. He offers a mix of newer songs and also older well known gospel songs or hymns in all his books. I haven't seen a mediocre Mark Hayes book yet....they are all worth purchasing. There are very few arrangers that I could say that about.

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