

## Message in the Music – June 10, 2021 – “Earth and All Stars”

The organ prelude for this coming Sunday, June 13, was composed by Michael Burkhardt on the tune *Dexter* by David Johnson, a former organist of St. Olaf College in Northfield, Minnesota. The associated text was written by a Lutheran pastor, Herbert Brokering, on the occasion of St. Olaf’s 90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in 1964.

The hymn may be found in *The Presbyterian Hymnal*, #458. There are a couple text alterations in this version, and stanza 2 of the original which is based on Psalm 150, is omitted. A copy of the hymn from *Evangelical Lutheran Worship*, 2006, is found below.

It is clear that the author had Psalm 96:1 and Psalm 98:1 in mind: “O sing to the Lord a new song, for he has done marvelous things.” Each stanza ends with the command “sing to the Lord a new song” which leads to the refrain summing up, “God has done marvelous things.” (So), “I too sing praises with a new song.”

It is easy to see foundational inspiration in other verses from the Psalms: Ps. 96:11-12; Ps. 98:4-9; Ps. 19:1; and Ps. 148. (It would be good to read these alongside the hymn.) What about stanzas 3-5? Remember, this was written for a college anniversary, a college with strong religious roots and history which continues to this day. No matter what we do for a living or do for recreation, we are to praise the one who created us. In *The Westminster Shorter Catechism*, it reads: “Q. 1. What is the chief end of man? A. Man’s chief end is to glorify God, and to enjoy him forever.” The hymn also reminds us that God created the heavens and the earth and all that is therein, and that all of creation is to praise God – earth, stars, hail, snow (read Ps. 148).

Finally, the word “Loud” appears twelve times. We are not to be timid in our praise of God.

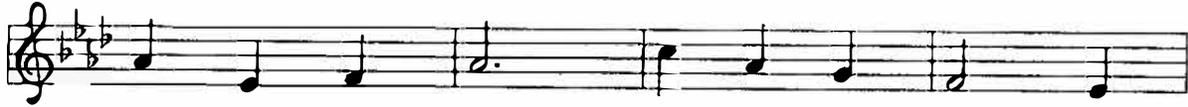
Burkhardt’s setting of this hymn gains vigor and volume as it moves along, but what is most noteworthy is the jaunty eight-note figure which pervades the composition, bringing to mind not only the “loud boiling test tubes,” but all of the chaos and activity that is inherent in living and being.

Philip Enge

June 9, 2021

731

Earth and All Stars!



1	Earth	and	all	stars!	Loud	rush - ing	plan - ets!
2	Trum - pet	and	pipes!	Loud	clash - ing	cym - bals!	
3	En - gines	and	steel!	Loud	pound - ing	ham - mers!	
4	Class - rooms	and	labs!	Loud	boil - ing	test tubes!	
5	Knowl - edge	and	truth!	Loud	sound - ing	wis - dom!	



Sing	to the	Lord	a	new	song!
Sing	to the	Lord	a	new	song!
Sing	to the	Lord	a	new	song!
Sing	to the	Lord	a	new	song!
Sing	to the	Lord	a	new	song!



Hail,	wind,	and	rain!	Loud	blow - ing	snow - storm!
Harp,	lute,	and	lyre!	Loud	hum - ming	cel - los!
Lime - stone	and	beams!	Loud	build - ing	work - ers!	
Ath - lete	and	band!	Loud	cheer - ing	peo - ple!	
Daugh - ter	and	son!	Loud	pray - ing	mem - bers!	



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Sing	to the	Lord	a	new	song!
Sing	to the	Lord	a	new	song!

*Refrain*



God has done mar - vel - ous things.



I too sing prais - es with a new song!