THE SACRED TRADITION—the very words bring to mind reverence to God, the qualities and depth of a rich spiritual heritage firmly rooted in our Savior Jesus Christ, and the affirmation and preservation of all the great work the Lord has done through Christians who have preceded us. I chose this title because I value that which is traditional, that which is spiritually sound and musically sacred. As a Christian, a classically-trained pianist, and a sacred artist, I feel it has been my calling to cultivate and champion the traditional, to show the incredible beauty, strength of message, and indelibre relevance of the great hymns of faith. I program these great works in performances for people of all ages, and the responses have been universally positive. People can sense the depth, the quality, the power, and the divine inspiration as God works through me at the piano.

To all my family, and friends from so many years back, as well as everyone that will be listening to this CD, I wish you God's richest blessings. I feel so fortunate that God has given me this gift at the piano, and it is my heart's sincerest desire to use my playing and music ministry totally for His glory. This CD has been a *long* time coming, but I know that God's timing is perfect, and I am so grateful that it is finally here, and can be available now to bless your hearts.

God bless you, Bill John

Special thanks and love go to my dear parents, Bill and Louise, who both deeply love the Lord, and who made incredible sacrifices to give me the opportunity to develop my gift as a pianist and to be able to use it for God's glory. For all of their love and support, I am forever grateful. This CD is dedicated to the Lord, and to them.

Dr. Newbrough performed on Steinway and Falcone concert grand pianos for the making of this CD. Recorded August 22-23, 2005 in the DeAngelis Studio; Manlius, New York.

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American pianist, Bill John Newbrough, was born in Chicago in 1973, and accepted the Lord as personal Savior at age seven. He started playing the piano at age eight, and acknowledges that his talent is entirely a gift from the Lord. In all his piano performances, he constantly strives to bring praise, glory, and honor to God. In addition to being a classically trained pianist, he has performed hymn arrangements in churches, colleges, missionary conferences, and charity and benefit concerts across the United States and Canada, as well as serving as church staff pianist at Shadow Hills Baptist Church in Las Vegas, Nevada.

Dr. Newbrough has received numerous awards and honors throughout the United States and Europe. These include the Yale Gordon Honorary Medallion in

Music, the Eisner Award, the BPAC Artist of the Year award, and prizes at many international and national piano competitions. Newbrough holds the Doctor of Musical Arts degree, Artist Diploma, and Master of Music degree from the Peabody Conservatory of Music/Johns Hopkins University, and the Bachelor of Arts degree with honors from the University of California at Berkeley. He has studied with such renowned teachers as Leon Fleisher, Gilbert Kalish, Haggai Niv, Yoheved Kaplinsky, and Dominique Weber.

A veteran of public performances, Newbrough made his international debut in 1992 at the Sydney Opera House as soloist with the California Youth Symphony. He debuted at Carnegie Recital Hall in 1997, and was invited to a return engagement the following year. Other performances have been presented at the French Embassy in Washington, D.C., the Van Cliburn Piano Institute in Ft. Worth, Texas, the Chateau de La Gesse in France, the Chopin Foundation in San Francisco, and the Franz Liszt International Piano Masterclasses in Utrecht, The Netherlands. In 2004, he performed Liszt's 2nd Piano Concerto with the Syracuse Symphony Orchestra. He has made five television appearances on the acclaimed series "Grand Piano" and many of his performances have been broadcast on radio, including "Live from Hochstein" in Rochester, New York. A recent classical CD, featuring a live benefit recital for the CNYAMT, is available on the Renegade Classics label. At present, he is Assistant Professor of Piano at Houghton College, a Christian college of liberal arts and sciences in western New York.

Bill Sohn Newbrough

THE SACRED TRADITION

Inspiring Piano Solo Arrangements of the Great Hymns of Faith









From the very first note on this recording, it is my hearts desire that the listener focus totally on the Lord. It thus seemed most fitting to program "How Great Thou Art" as the opening selection. This is one of the greatest hymns ever written, a stalwart and honored fixture in the music of the historical church. The original hymn was composed by British songwriter and missionary. Stuart K. Hine (1899-1989), and the arrangement is by Dino Kartsonakis. This hymn has been recognized by many as the number one hymn in America and is widely known around the world. The words mean so much to me, because they acknowledge by name the great God we serve, and the music creates such an effective portrayal of His majesty and power. I trust your hearts will be blessed as you listen to this well-known favorite.

The next selection, "Beneath the Cross of Jesus," is another one of the great hymns of faith. The moving and heartfelt words were written in 1868 by Elizabeth C. Clephane (1830-1869). About this very text, W. Arnot wrote in 1872: "These lines express the experiences, the hopes and the longings of a young Christian. Written on the very edge of life, with the better land fully in view of faith, they seem to us footsteps printed on the sands of time, where these sands touch the ocean of Eternity. These footprints of one whom the Good Shepherd led through the wilderness into rest, may, with God's blessing, contribute to comfort and direct succeeding pilgrims." The original music was written in 1881 by Frederick C. Maker (1844-1927), and the arrangement is by Ted Cornell. My very favorite line in the entire hymn is as follows: "I take, O cross, thy shadow for my abiding place; I ask no other sunshine than the sunshine of His face." What incredible joy we have to know that Jesus is alive, and will call us home to be with Him for eternity.

The story of the next hymn is quite remarkable. For many years, I played that great, *old*, hymn "Master, the Tempest is Raging." The words are by Mary A. Baker (1831-1921), the music was composed by Horatio R. Palmer (1834-1907), and the arrangement was written by Henrietta Eleanor Fruen. The hymn is a powerful depiction of the storm described in the gospels that nearly swamps the boat in which Jesus and His disciples are traveling. Jesus was sleeping, and the disciples woke Him with great panic. After he rebuked them for their lack of faith, He calmed the stormy waves by saying, "Peace, be still." My favorite line in the hymn is "No waters can swallow the ship where lies The Master of ocean, and earth, and skies." I was recently informed that Horatio Palmer was from Rushford, NY, only five miles from Houghton College, where I am Assistant Professor of Piano. It is incredibly meaningful to me to discover that one of the great hymn writers lived and worked in this very area. God can calm any storms in our lives. In the words of Mary Baker herself in 1874, "the Master's own voice stilled the tempest in my unsanctified heart, and brought it to the calm of a deeper faith and a more perfect trust."

The next hymn is an appropriate follow-up to the previous selection, as it ties in very closely theme-wise. "It is Well With My Soul" is another one of the most beloved hymns ever written. The words come from

Horatio G. Spafford (1828-1888), a prominent Chicago lawyer and friend of D.L. Moody (1837-1899). This hymn came to be written because of a family tragedy that has become well known. Spafford tragically lost all four of his daughters in an ocean liner accident in the Atlantic. Only his wife, who accompanied the daughters on the trip, miraculously survived the accident. She sent back a telegram from England that simply read: "Saved alone." While traveling to be reunited with her in England, he penned this hymn while grieving at the very spot where the tragedy had occurred. The music for the hymn was written by Philip P. Bliss (1838-1876), and the arrangement is by Ted Cornell. This hymn has always been a favorite to so many people, and it is a favorite of mine as well.

"Wonderful Jesus" is another one of those cherished old hymns. It definitely has a charming old-fashioned sound and style of piano playing that we do not get to hear much any more. The hymn text was written in 1921 by Anna B. Russell (1862-1954), who lived in Coming, NY (also not too far from Houghton College). The music was written by Ernest O. Sellers (1869-1952), and the arrangement is by Henrietta Eleanor Fruen.

In comparison to many of the other 'classic' hymns on this CD, the next hymn "Holy, Holy" is quite recent and is found in many modern hymnals across the world. I have added it for a little variety, and because it is such a favorite. It was written by Jimmy Owens in 1972. Although a simple hymn, using much text repetition and uncomplicated harmony, it is tremendously effective in creating a mood of adoration and worship for the Lord. This beautiful arrangement by Dino uses different key areas to bring out different sonorities and timbres of the various piano registers, and represents the beauty of our worship to God.

The next hymn almost didn't make it onto the CD, and ended up being the very last addition. I am very glad it did though! I heard "A Quiet Place" on the radio while driving, and was quite taken by its gorgeous melody (very akin to Liszt's Liebestraume), and reverent tranquility. While this is more of a vocal song than a traditional hymn, I thought I would include it as a beautiful respite in the middle of the CD. This song was written by Ralph Carmichael, a prolific contributor in the church music publishing realm, and the arrangement is by Dino. In this hectic world, it is nice to know that we have a quiet place. God is truly our place of refuge and quiet solace. To enhance your experience of this work, I am including the words below:

There is a quiet place,
Far from the rapid pace,
Where God can soothe my troubled mind
Sheltered by tree and flow'r
There in my quiet hour, with Him.

My cares are left behind.

Whether a garden small,
Or on a mountain tall,
New strength and courage there I find;
Then from this quiet place I go,
Prepared to face a new day,
With love for all mankind.

The next selection is a very unusual hymn, "Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence." Everything about this hymn sounds different, and it makes for a unique treasure within the other hymns programmed on this CD. The

origin goes way back with words from the Liturgy of St. James, 5th century, and music from a 17th century traditional French carol melody. With its deeply minor sound, and brightening of the final cadence with a Picardy third, it brings to mind the sound of a beloved song entitled "Via Dolorosa." This arrangement by Ted Cornell starts very hushed but keeps building and building. It returns to a whisper at the end, bringing the piece full circle. As we read in Habakkuk 2:20, "But the Lord is in his holy temple; let all the earth be silent before him." The last line of the hymn text is especially powerful: "At His feet the six-winged Seraph, Cherubim, with sleepless eye, Veil their faces to the presence, As with ceaseless voice they cry, 'Alleluia, Alleluia, Lord most high!"

Andrae Crouch's powerful and divinely inspired hymn, "To God Be the Glory (My Tribute)", goes way back for me. This arrangement by Dino was one of the very first hymns that I ever played as an offertory in church, and the words have been a life long hymn for me. This piece has always held a special place in my heart. The words resonate significance for me, and underscore the many ways that God has guided my life and used my piano playing for His glory. To God be the glory for the things He has done.

A composer I am not. However, in 2000 the Lord led me to write a completely original arrangement of "The Lord's Prayer." This very well-known hymn, from the scripture passage in Matthew 6:9-13, was composed by organist and film score composer, Albert Hay Malotte. I have performed my arrangement extensively, and those who have heard it have reacted with great enthusiasm and appreciation. Instead of grafting a classical work with a hymn, I prefer to write completely original material that comprises all the musical depth and rich quality of classical works, yet that enhances and emanates directly from the inspiration of the hymn itself. I thank the Lord for this arrangement, because I could not have done any of this without Him. It is entirely a work of art that He breathed through me. With His help, I hope to write more original arrangements.

The final presentation on this CD is a triumphant and exultant culmination of the great hope that we as Christians have in Jesus Christ. The words to "Jesus Shall Reign" were written by English hymn writer Isaac Watts (1674-1748), in his 'The Psalms of David,' 1719. The music was composed in 1793 by John Hatton (1710-1793), and the arrangement is by Ted Cornell. With its lengthy geographically-referenced text, the hymn has been considered one of the greatest of all missionary hymns. The arrangement starts with a single note, just a whisper, and the sound is somber and reflective. We know that Jesus is coming back soon. There is so much boisterous distraction in the world today that the whisper is missed, that gentle calling that Jesus patiently gives. But as the arrangement progresses, the evidence of the shining glory of Jesus' return becomes more and more powerful. The whole arrangement is one massive crescendo to the epic celebration and victory at the end, symbolizing when we will be with Jesus in glory for ever and ever. We know that Jesus already reigns, and this truth will be powerfully clear when that day comes that every knee will bow, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God, the Father.

4:09

"It is good to praise the Lord and make music to your name, O Most High."

Psalm 92:1



This CD project has been years in the making. By God's grace, I have been performing piano solo hymn arrangements in churches and elsewhere for almost 25 years, and so many

people have asked for a recording of the hymns that they have heard me perform live. For one reason or another, this dream to produce a commercially available sacred piano CD has been put on hold, over and over...until now. Finally, all the 'pieces' have come together, and I feel so blessed to actually see this recording, which you are now holding in your hands, come to fruition. This sacred piano recording is a compendium and panorama of the very best of my sacred repertoire. It encompasses everything from initial selections dating back to my earliest days of playing the piano, to very current projects, including my first totally original arrangement. I am so thankful to the Lord that He has guided me through the immense undertaking of producing this CD. I trust that vour heart will be blessed as you listen to this beautiful music, a special gift which He gives to me and which I delight in sharing with you.

Bill John Neubrough

THE SACRED TRADITION

Inspiring Piano Solo Arrangements of the Great Hymns of Faith

1.	How Great Thou Art	Stuart K. Hine	3:17
2.	Beneath the Cross of Jesus	Frederick C. Maker	6:14
3.	Master, the Tempest is Raging	Horatio R. Palmer	4:25
4.	It is Well With My Soul	Philip P. Bliss	5:55
5.	Wonderful Jesus	Ernest O. Sellers	3:42
6.	Holy, Holy	Jimmy Owens	4:14
7.	A Quiet Place	Ralph Carmichael	3:10
8.	Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence traditional French carol		5:37
9.	To God Be the Glory (My Tribu	ite) Andrae Crouch	4:09
10.	The Lord's Prayer Albert Hay Malotte/arr. Bill John Newbrough		5:45

John Hatton



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11. Jesus Shall Reign

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