

Hymn Facts
Hymns for Young Hands, Elementary, Set A
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Lamb of God, We Fall before You - Page 2

What is the hymn tune name of this melody? (Look for the words with all capital letters.) Can you tell those aren't English words? They are German. I would pronounce RINGE RECHT as "Ringa Reckt". That's probably close. Is this melody in the hymnal you use? In mine there are two different sets of words. Besides "Lamb of God, We Fall before You", we also use this melody for "Sweet the Moments, Rich in Blessing". When a church musicians are picking out music, they look for songs that match the hymn tunes of the hymns. Unless someone is singing, nobody will know the title of the words. They only care about the hymn tune.

Jesus Christ, Our Blessed Savior - Page 3

About 100 years before the start of the Reformation (1517), there lived a man named John Hus. Like Luther, he spoke out about the problems he could see in the church. John was burned to death for speaking about these problems. Luther wrote the words to this hymn, but he said it was based on a hymn written by John Hus. It might even be older than that. We do know that Martin Luther organized and completed this hymn. It was a very early hymn for the Lutheran church.

On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry - Page 4

The words to this hymn were written in Latin by a man from France named Charles Coffin. He wrote it sometime near 1736. He wrote about 100 Latin hymns during his life. At that time, the churches in France mostly used Latin in their worship. John Chandler of London, England translated this hymn in 1837. Rev. Chandler did a lot of looking for old hymns that had really good words and then he rewrote them in English.

Let All Together Praise Our God - Page 5

Nikolaus Herman wrote both the melody and the words for this hymn. That doesn't happen too often, especially with 500 year old hymns. But he first wrote a children's hymn to go with this melody to tell the story of John the Baptist. This is a wonderful Christmas hymn but we don't get to sing it very much because there is so much nice music at that time.

Hail to the Lord's Anointed - Page 6

When Martin Luther started thinking about church music, he knew he had to find a very good musician to help him, so he asked Johann Walther to come. Johann lived with Martin Luther for several weeks to work on new music for the church. About thirty years later, a young music student named Leonhart Schröter came to study with Johann Walther. Leonhart wrote this melody.

Glory Be to Jesus - Page 8

Most of the hymns we have in our hymnals were written in English or German. The super old ones might have been in Latin or Greek. This hymn was first written in Italian! Do

you like Italian food like pizza, spaghetti or lasagna? The next time you eat something Italian you should tell your family that “Glory Be to Jesus” was first written in Italian.

Go to Dark Gethsemane - Page 9

Who wrote this melody? He lived in England in the 1800's. When he was nine years old, he went to live at a special music school so he could learn to sing and play instruments. I bet there were many times he missed his family. When he grew up, he was a really good musician. He did not call the melody “Gethsemane” because he really like the words to “Rock of Ages” for this melody. Try to sing those words to this melody. It works but we aren't used to it at all.

Like the Golden Sun Ascending - Page 10

Johann Schop wrote this melody. How many hymns use this melody in your hymnal? In mine, there are four. You can tell it is a popular tune. Mr. Schop lived in the 1600's and was known as “an intelligent performer on the organ, violin, lute, trumpet and zinke”. A lute is an instrument with strings like a guitar, but shaped differently. But what is a “zinke”? This is an old instrument that we don't use any more. It is a long tube with holes for your fingers, kind of like a recorder, but instead of blowing into it like a recorder, you buzz your lips more like playing a trumpet.

We All Believe in One True God - Page 12

In 1524, Martin Luther wrote the words for this hymn to teach the important truths of Christianity. In nearly every worship service, we say either the Apostles' Creed or the Nicene Creed. Luther used the Nicene Creed to create this hymn. His excellent musician friend Johann Walther helped put the words with music. This melody is even older than Luther and Walther and comes from the 1300's. It was changed to match these words and then joined together about nine years after Martin Luther first wrote the words.

God Loved the World So that He Gave - Page 13

What is the name of this hymn tune and who wrote it? The church observes St. Crispin day on October 25th, just like St. Valentine's day is February 14th and St. Nicholas is December 6th. I wonder if George Elvey wrote this melody on October 25th? Mr. Elvey wrote two other popular melodies – DIADEMATA (Crown Him with Many Crowns) and ST. GEORGE'S, WINDSOR (Songs of Thankfulness and Praise). He was such a great composer Queen Victoria knighted him, so his name is really Sir George Elvey.

Oh, that I Had a Thousand Voices - Page 14

When Johann Mentzer wrote this poem, it had 15 stanzas! In my hymnal there are two hymns with the same name even though the stanzas are not the same. Do you have two hymns with this name in your hymnal? They both used the same poem by Johann Mentzer but they used different parts of the poem. Look at the hymn tune name for each. In my hymnal, it is the same except one added “Dretzel” to the end of the name and the other added “König”. That is because the melodies are different and were written by different people (Cornelius Dretzel and Johann König) even though they have the same tune name.

If God Himself Be for Me - Page 16

Melchior Teschner wrote this melody. During his life he worked as a church musician, a schoolteacher, and a pastor. He was living in a town that had a terrible sickness that killed over 2000 people in five months. He did not die from the sickness, but later his town was attacked and he was hurt and then died. His son then became pastor there and later his grandson did. What a blessing this family was to this congregation!