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# Shepherd of Eager Youth

Gerre Hancock

Soprano Solo, Treble Duet, SATB and Organ

## Gerre Hancock (1934 – 2012)

Gerre Hancock, one of America's most highly acclaimed concert organists and choral directors, was Professor of Organ and Sacred Music at The University of Texas at Austin, where he and Dr. Judith Hancock directed the Organ Performance and Sacred Music Center programs; together, they taught organ and developed a curriculum for the study of Sacred Music. Prior to this appointment, Dr. Hancock held the position of Organist and Master of Choristers at Saint Thomas Church Fifth Avenue in New York City, where for more than thirty years he set a new standard for church music in America.

Dr. Hancock's consummate skill was clearly apparent in his concert appearances. Possessing a masterly interpretive ability, he was an artist of taste, warmth, perception, and style. Considered the finest organ improviser in America, Dr. Hancock was heard in recital in many cities throughout the United States, Europe, South Africa, and Japan. On occasion he performed in duo recitals with his wife, Judith Hancock.

Gerre Hancock served on the faculty of The Juilliard School in New York City and taught improvisation on a visiting basis at the Institute of Sacred Music at Yale University in New Haven, CT, and The Eastman School of Music in Rochester, NY. In 1981 he was appointed a Fellow of the Royal School of Church Music and in 1995 was appointed a Fellow of the Royal College of Organists.

Gerre Hancock received honorary Doctor of Music degrees from the Nashotah House Seminary, Westminster Choir College/Rider University, and The University of the South at Sewanee, TN. In May 2004 he was awarded the Doctor of Divinity degree (*Honoris causa*) from The General Theological Seminary in New York. He was listed in "Who's Who in America," and his biography appears in *The New Grove Dictionary of Music and Musicians*, 2nd edition. In 2004 he was honored in a ceremony at Lambeth Palace in London, England, where he was presented the Medal of the Cross of St. Augustine by the Archbishop of Canterbury.

Compositions by Dr. Hancock are published by Oxford University Press, E.C. Schirmer Music, and Paraclete Press. His compositions for organ and chorus are widely performed, and his textbook, *Improvising: How to Master the Art*, is used by musicians throughout the USA. He recorded for Gothic Records, Decca/Argo, Koch International, and Priory Records, both as a conductor of The St. Thomas Choir and as a soloist.

On January 21, 2012, Dr. Hancock passed away peacefully in Austin, TX, surrounded by his family. A giant figure in twentieth- to twenty-first-century American sacred music, he left a lasting legacy, not only for his artistry, but also for his energy, optimism, and love of the people he taught and for whom he performed.



8

con - trol - ing, guid - ing, —

8

There - fore can I lack — noth - ing —

8

1

12

lift - ing our heart to truth, new pow'r pro - vid - ing. —

12

He re - stor - eth — my

12

16 *p*

Shep - herd of in - no - cence, Thou lift our soul.

Detailed description: This system contains the first two staves of music. The top staff is a vocal line in treble clef with a key signature of two sharps (F# and C#). It begins with a measure of rest, followed by a series of eighth and quarter notes. The lyrics 'Shep - herd of in - no - cence, Thou lift our' are written below the notes. The second measure of the vocal line is followed by a measure of rest, then another series of notes. The bottom two staves are piano accompaniment in bass clef, featuring a steady eighth-note bass line and a more active treble line with chords and moving lines. The first measure of the piano part is marked with a piano (*p*) dynamic.

16

Detailed description: This system contains the piano accompaniment for the second system. It consists of three staves. The top two staves are the grand staff (treble and bass clefs) and the bottom staff is a separate bass line. The piano part continues with the same rhythmic and harmonic patterns as the first system, providing a steady accompaniment for the vocal line.

19 *mf*

con - fi - dence. To thee, our sure de - fence, we bring our

19 *pp*

The Lord is my

Detailed description: This system contains the third and fourth systems of music. The top system (measures 19-21) features the vocal line with lyrics 'con - fi - dence. To thee, our sure de - fence, we bring our'. The dynamic is marked *mf*. The piano accompaniment continues. The bottom system (measures 22-24) features the piano accompaniment with lyrics 'The Lord is my'. The dynamic is marked *pp*. The piano part continues with the same rhythmic and harmonic patterns as the previous systems.

22

prais - es.

22

shep - herd.

*pp*

The Lord is my

22

II

III

27

*f*

Thou art our might-y Lord, our strength in

27

shep - herd.

27



37 *f*  
 glad - ness, Thy

37 I will fear no e - vil,

37 *I*

40 Name we glo - ri - fy O Je - sus throned on high, Who

40 For

40

44

gav'st thy - self to die for our  
 thou art with me.

44

47

Soprano solo Expressively

Good

sal - va - tion.

*mf*

The

47

II Foundations 8'  
 III Foundations 8', 4', Reeds 16', 8'

III/II } II *mf* III, II/I } I *f* *ff*

Ped. Foundations 32', 16', 8' Reed 16'

52

Shep - herd of thy sheep, — thine own de - fend - ing —

52

Lord is — myshep-herd. — Sure - ly — thy good-ness -

52

III, II/I

I *mf*

II *mf* ————— *mp*

55

55

*mf*

In love — thy chil - dren keep in

55

— and mer - cy — shall fol - low — me —

55

I

58

life un - end - ing. Thou art thy - self the way,

58 *p*

all the days of my life.

58

58

62

— lead us then day by day — In thine own steps, we pray, O

62 *mp*

62

62

67

Lord — most ho - ly. —

Detailed description: This system contains the vocal line for measures 67-71. The music is in G major (one sharp) and 3/4 time. The lyrics are "Lord — most ho - ly. —". The melody starts on a half note G4, followed by quarter notes A4, B4, and C5, then a half note G4. There is a fermata over the final G4. The piano accompaniment consists of whole notes in the right hand and whole notes in the left hand, with a change in registration at measure 71.

67

Detailed description: This system shows the piano accompaniment for measures 67-71. The right hand plays whole notes G4, A4, B4, C5, G4. The left hand plays whole notes G3, F3, E3, D3, G2. There is a change in registration at measure 71.

67

Registration as in the beginning

Detailed description: This system shows the grand staff piano accompaniment for measures 67-71. The right hand plays whole notes G4, A4, B4, C5, G4. The left hand plays whole notes G3, F3, E3, D3, G2. There is a change in registration at measure 71. The text "Registration as in the beginning" is written in the right hand staff.

72

Soprano solo

Detailed description: This system shows the Soprano solo line for measures 72-75. The notes are whole notes G4, A4, B4, C5, G4.

Treble duet

Detailed description: This system shows the Treble duet line for measures 72-75. The notes are whole notes G4, A4, B4, C5, G4.

72

*ppp*

The Lord is — my shep - herd, —

Detailed description: This system shows the vocal line for measures 72-75. The music is in G major and 3/4 time. The lyrics are "The Lord is — my shep - herd, —". The melody starts on a quarter rest, followed by quarter notes G4, A4, B4, C5, G4. The piano accompaniment consists of quarter notes in the right hand and quarter notes in the left hand.

72

III

Detailed description: This system shows the grand staff piano accompaniment for measures 72-75. The right hand plays quarter notes G4, A4, B4, C5, G4. The left hand plays quarter notes G3, F3, E3, D3, G2. There is a change in registration at measure 75, indicated by the Roman numeral III.

76 *f*  
 Glo - rious — their life who sing, — with glad — thanks-giv - ing. —

76

76

80 *f* True hymns — to  
*f*

80 There - fore can I lack — noth - ing

80

83

Christ the King in all their living:

83

I will fear no

83

87

[*mp*]

You who confess his Name,

87

e - vil.

87

90 *p*

come then with hearts a-flame; Let

90

90

94

word and life ac-claim

94 *ppp*

The Lord is my shep-herd,

94

98 *pp*

our Lord and Sa - viour.

98

He re - stor - eth my

98

102

soul.

102