

***Blessed Assurance: A Workshop in 19th-Century American Hymns
“Music Weaponized for the Conversion to Christ”***

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I. Terms

hymn	tune name
psalter	metrical index
metrical psalmody	sacred cantata
canticle	spiritual
hymnody	gospel
through-composed	liturgical / extra-liturgical
verse-refrain	

II. Historical Developments

First Great Awakening (England, Wesley, Methodism)

Second Great Awakening (US, Methodism, Camp Meetings, Baptist/Baptism, Adventism, Latter-Day Saints)

Sunday School Movement

Normal School

Revival Meetings

Camp Meetings

III. Three Historical Tensions:

Metrical psalmody *versus* freely composed “literary” hymns

Shape-note singing *versus* “scientific singing”

“Scientific-Style” (Germanic choral style) *versus* Romantic American style
folk song / shape-note tunes
sentimental tunes (musical theater, parlor songs)
spirituals
gospels

IV. Prominent Hymnists

England

Isaac Watts 1674-1748

*Joy to the World; When I Survey the Wondrous Cross; Jesus Shall Reign
Where're the Sun; Alas! and Did My Saviour Bleed?*

Charles Wesley 1707-1788, brother to John Wesley 1703-1791 (words to
c. 6500 hymns)

*Christ the Lord is Risen Today!
Come Thou Long Expected Jesus!
Hark! The Herald Angels Sing!
O For A Thousand Tongues to Sing*

America

William Billings 1746-1800

*The New-England Psalm-Singer (1770)
When Jesus Wept; Chester; Africa*

Lowell Mason 1792-1872

*Nearer My God to Thee; My Faith Looks Up To Thee; From Greenland's
Icy Mountains*
Singing Schools
Publishing House
Music in Public Schools
Handel & Haydn Society Publications
Boston Academy of Music

William Batchelder Bradbury 1816-1868

*Jesus Loves Me; He Leadeth Me; Just As I Am; Sweet Hour of Prayer;
Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Me; My Hope is Built On Nothing Less*

George Frederick Root 1820-1895

*There's Music in the Air (Crosby); Tramp! Tramp! Tramp! Battle Cry of
Freedom; Love Never Faileth*

Fanny Crosby 1820-1915 c. 8000 hymn texts + c. 300 pseudonyms

*Blessed Assurance (Phoebe Palmer Knapp, 1839-1908); Safe in the
Arms of Jesus; Pass Me Not, O Gentle Savior; Rescue the Perishing; Near
the Cross; To God Be the Glory*

William Howard Doane 1832-1915

Music for c. 1500 of Crosby's hymns; *Sabbath School Gems*, 1862; *Little
Sunbeam*, 1864; *Silver Spray* 1867

Ira D. Sankey 1840-1908

Beneath the Cross of Jesus; The Ninety and Nine
"Sankey's"—16-page pamphlets, e.g. *Sacred Songs and Solos Sung by
Ira D. Sankey at the Meetings of Mr. Moody in Chicago*

Dwight L. Moody 1837-1899

"Faith makes all things possible. Love makes all things easy."
"Every man can do something."

Julia Ward Howe 1819-1910

Mine Eyes Have Seen the Glory of the Coming of the Lord, 1862

Horatio Gates Spafford 1828-1888

It Is Well With My Soul (text) — Philip Paul Bliss 1838-1876 (music)

O what a happy soul am I!
Although I cannot see,
I am resolved that in this world
Contented I will be;
How many blessings I enjoy
That other people don't!
To weep and sigh because I'm blind,
I cannot, and I won't.

— Fanny Crosby, age 8

There's Music in the Air
Crosby, Root

There's music in the air
When the infant morn is nigh,
And faint its blush is seen
On the bright and laughing sky.
Many a harp's ecstatic sound
With its thrill of joy profound,
While we list enchanted there
To the music in the air.

There's music in the air
When the noontide's sultry beam
Reflects a golden light
On the distant mountain stream.
When beneath some grateful shade
Sorrow's aching head is laid,
Sweetly to the spirit there
Comes the music in the air.

There's music in the air,
When the twilight's gentle sigh
Is lost on evening's breast
As its pensive beauties die.
Then O! the loved one is gone,
Make he pure celestial song;
Angel voices greet us there,
In the music of the air.

Safe in the Arms of Jesus

FANNY J. CROSBY

WILLIAM H. DOANE

1. Safe in the arms of Je - sus, Safe on His gen-tle breast, There by His
 2. Safe in the arms of Je - sus, Safe from cor-rod-ing care, Safe from the
 3. Je-sus, my heart's Jear ref - uge, Je - sus has died for me; Firm on the

love o'er - shad - ed, Sweet-ly my soul shall rest. Hark! 'tis the voice of
 world's temp-ta - tions, Sin can-not harm me there. Free from the blight of
 Rock of A - ges, Ev - er my trust shall be. Here let me wait with

an - gels, Borne in a song to me... O - ver the fields of glo - ry,
 sor - row, Free from my doubts and fears; On - ly a few more tri - als,
 pa - tience, Wait till the night is o'er; Wait till I see the morn - ing

CHORUS
 O - ver the jas - per sea.....
 On - ly a few more tears!..... Safe in the arms of Je - sus, Safe on His
 Break on the gold-en shore.....

gen-tle breast, There by His love o'er - shad - ed, Sweetly my soul shall rest.