

Comfort, Comfort, O My People

for Pamela Rauscher, Ph.D.

Based on Isaiah 40:1-8
Johann G. Olearius (1611-1684);
Translated by Catherine Winkworth, (1827-1878), alt.

GENEVA 42, 87 87 77 88
Claude Goudimel (1514-1572)
Genevan Psalter, 1551
Arranged by Gerard Chiusano

INTRO Gently (♩ = 92-100)

Keyboard

p

F Am/E Dm7 F/C

§ VERSES 1, 3 Solo or Section *mp - mf*

1. Com - fort,
3. O make

Bbmaj7 Am7 Dm7 Gm Gm7 Csus4 C F

Descant *mf*

O make straight the crook - ed, Make the rough - er

1. com - fort, O my peo - ple, Speak of peace, now
3. straight what long was crook - ed, Make the rough - er

F/E Dm7 G7 Csus4 C F/A C/G Dm/F Bb

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plac - es plain; Let your hearts be

1. says our God; Com - fort those who sit in
3. plac - es plain; Let your hearts be true and

F/C C F Bb/F Dm C#dim7 F/C Am/C Dm/B E7

hum - ble, As be - fits his ho - ly reign.

1. dark - ness, Mourn - ing 'neath their sor - rows' load.
3. hum - ble, As be - fits his ho - ly reign.

Asus4 Am Dm C/E F Bbm/Db F/C C F Fsus4

For God's glo - ry Now

mf

1. Speak un - to Je - ru - sa - lem Of the
3. For the glo - ry of the Lord Now o'er

F Am/E Dm F/C Am

is _____ shed a - broad; And all flesh _____ shall see _____ the

1. peace that waits for them; Tell of all the sins I
 3. earth is shed a - broad; And all flesh shall see the

B \flat /D C/E F B \flat Dm/B Csus4 C F C/E Dm

to - ken _____ That his _____ word is nev - er

1. cov - er, _____ And that war - fare now is
 3. to - ken _____ That his word is nev - er

B \flat m/D \flat F/C Gm7/C Am/C Gm/C F/C

bro - ken. _____

1. o - ver. _____
 3. bro - ken. _____

C7 Csus4 F Am/E Dm7 F/C

mp

Bbmaj7 Am7 Dm7 Gm Gm7 Csus4 C

Last time Fsus4 F

mf last time: *dim.* rit. p

to Verse 2

*VERSE 2

S *mf*

2. Hark, the voice of one who's cry - ing In the

T

B *mf*

F Am/E Dm G7 Csus4 C F/A C/E

mp

2. des - ert far and near, Bid - ding all to

Dm Bbm/Db F/C C F Am/E

*Verse 2 chord inversions support the choral parts.

2. full re - pent - ance Since the king - dom now is

Dm E7 Am Dm C Dm/B Bbm F/C C

2. here. O that warn - ing cry o - bey!

F Am/E F/D Bb/D A/C#

f

f

mf

The image shows a musical score for a hymn. It consists of two systems of music. The first system includes a vocal line with lyrics, a bass line, and a piano accompaniment with chords. The second system also includes a vocal line with lyrics, a bass line, and a piano accompaniment with chords. Dynamics like *f* and *mf* are indicated. A large 'PREVIEW' watermark is overlaid on the score.

2. Now pre - pare for God a way; Let the

mf

Dm7 C/E Dm/F Gm F/A B \flat Dm/B Csus4 C F

mp

This system contains the first two lines of music. The top line is the vocal melody in G major, with lyrics "2. Now pre - pare for God a way; Let the". The piano accompaniment is in the right hand, featuring a rhythmic pattern of eighth notes and quarter notes. The guitar part is in the left hand, with chords: Dm7, C/E, Dm/F, Gm, F/A, B \flat , Dm/B, Csus4, C, and F. Dynamics include *mf* and *mp*.

2. val - leys rise to meet him And the

C7/E F/E Dm Gm/D B \flat m/D \flat F/C

This system contains the second two lines of music. The top line is the vocal melody in G major, with lyrics "2. val - leys rise to meet him And the". The piano accompaniment continues with similar rhythmic patterns. The guitar part has chords: C7/E, F/E, Dm, Gm/D, B \flat m/D \flat , and F/C. Dynamics include *mp*.

2. hills___ bow down to greet___ him. ___

Gm/C F/C Gm/C Dm/C C F Am/E Dm7

mp

F/C Bbmaj7 Am7 Dm7 Gm Gm7 Csus4 C *D.S.*

mf

The musical score is written in G minor (one flat) and 4/4 time. It features a vocal line with lyrics and a piano accompaniment. The piano part includes a melodic line in the right hand and a bass line in the left hand. Chord symbols are placed above the piano part. Dynamics include *mp* (mezzo-piano) and *mf* (mezzo-forte). The piece concludes with a *D.S.* (Da Capo) instruction.

Performance Notes

Comfort, Comfort, O My People is a beloved passage from scripture, set to a well-known hymn tune. Chapter 40 begins the second section of Isaiah, “The Book of the Consolation of Israel,” as it is called in the *New Jerusalem Bible*. Written near the end of the exile of Israel, these passages were meant as an encouragement to those who were preparing to return to Jerusalem. Notice also the foreshadowing of the prophet John, the “one who’s crying in the desert far and near.”

This passage is proclaimed on the second Sunday of Advent in Year B, but the piece is certainly also appropriate for the second and third Sundays of Advent in every year, when the gospel passages refer to John the Baptist.

Regarding the music, I have found that assemblies sometimes have a hard time understanding and singing the original dance rhythm of this hymn. Therefore, I have “straightened” the rhythm, placing the tune in a consistent 3/4 meter.

—Gerard Chiusano

Preview

Comfort, Comfort, O My People

for Pamela Rauscher, Ph.D.

(Guitar/Vocal)

Based on Isaiah 40:1-8
 Johann G. Olearius (1611-1684);
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GENEVA 42, 87 87 77 88
 Claude Goudimel (1514-1572)
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INTRO *Gently* (♩ = 92-100)

Capo 3: (D) F (F#m/C#) Am/E (Bm7) Dm7 (D/A) F/C (Gmaj7) Bbmaj7

VERSES 1, 3

(F#m7) (Bm7) (Em) (Em7) (Asus4) (A) (D) (D/C#) (Bm7) (E7)
 Am7 Dm7 Gm Gm7 Csus4 C F F/E Dm7 G7

mp - mf

1. Com - fort, com - fort, O my
 3. O make straight what long was

(Asus4) (A) (D/F#) (A/E) (Bm/D) (G) (D/A) (A) (D) (G/D) (Bm) (A#°7)
 Csus4 C F/A C/G Dm/F Bb F/C C F Bb/F Dm C#°7

1. peo - ple, Speak of peace, now says our God; Com - fort
 3. crook - ed, Make the rough - er plac - es plain; Let your

(D/A) (F#m/A) (Bm/G#) (C#7) (F#sus4) (F#m) (Bm) (A/C#) (D) (Gm/Bb)
 F/C Am/C Dm/B E7 Asus4 Am Dm C/E F Bbm/Db

1. those who sit in dark - ness, Mourn - ing 'neath their
 3. hearts be true and hum - ble, As be - fits his

(D/A) (A) (D) (Dsus4) (D) (F#m/C#) (Bm) (D/A)
 F/C C F F#sus4 F Am/E Dm F/C

1. sor - rows' load. Speak un - to Je - ru - sa - lem
 3. ho - ly reign. For the glo - ry of the Lord

(F#m) (G/B) (A/C#) (D) (G) (Bm/G#) (Asus4) (A) (D)
 Am Bb/D C/E F Bb Dm/B Csus4 C F

1. Of the peace that waits for them; Tell of
 3. Now o'er earth is shed a - broad; And all

(A/C#) (Bm) (Gm/Bb) (D/A) (Em7/A) (F#m/A)
 C/E Dm Bbm/Db F/C Gm7/C Am/C

1. all the sins I cov - er, And that war - fare
 3. flesh shall see the to - ken That his word is

(Em/A) (D/A) (A7) (Asus4) (D) (F#m/C#) (Bm7) (D/A) (Gmaj7)
 Gm/C F/C C7 Csus4 F Am/E Dm7 F/C Bbmaj7

1. now is o - ver. _____
 3. nev - er bro - ken. _____

(F#m7) (Bm7) (Em) (Em7) (Asus4) (A) Last time (Dsus4) (D)
 Am7 Dm7 Gm Gm7 Csus4 C to Verse 2 Fsus4 rit. Fp

Last time

*VERSE 2

(D) (F#m/C#) (Bm) (E7) (Asus4) (A) (D/F#) (A/C#) (Bm) (Gm/Bb)
 F Am/E Dm G7 Csus4 C F/A C/E Dm Bbm/Db

2. Hark, the voice of one who's cry - ing In the des - ert

(D/A) (A) (D) (F#m/C#) (Bm) (C#7) (F#m)
 F/C C F Am/E Dm E7 Am

2. far and near, Bid - ding all to full re - pent - ance

(Bm) (A) (Bm/G#) (Gm) (D/A) (A) (D) (F#m/C#)
 Dm C Dm/B Bbm F/C C F f Am/E

2. Since the king - dom now is here. O that warn - ing

(D/B) (G/B) (F#/A#) (Bm7) (A/C#) (Bm/D) (Em) (D/F#) (G) (Bm/G#)
 F/D Bb/D A/C# Dm7 C/E Dm/F Gm F/A Bb Dm/B

2. cry o - bey! Now pre - pare for God a

(Asus4) (A) (D) (A7/C#) (D/C#) (Bm) (Em/B) (Gm/Bb)
 Csus4 C F C7/E F/E Dm Gm/D Bbm/Db

2. way; Let the val - leys rise to meet him

(D/A) (Em/A) (D/A) (Em/A) (Bm/A) (A) (D) (F#m/C#)
 F/C Gm/C F/C Gm/C Dm/C C F Am/E

2. And the hills bow down to greet him.

(Bm7) (D/A) (Gmaj7) (F#m7) (Bm7) (Em) (Em7) (Asus4) (A)
 Dm7 F/C Bbmaj7 Am7 Dm7 Gm Gm7 Csus4 C D.S.

D.S.

*When keyboard is accompanying, guitar may effectively tacet verse 2.

Assembly Edition

COMFORT, COMFORT, O MY PEOPLE

GENEVA 42, alt.



1. Com - fort, com - fort, O my peo - ple, Speak of peace, now
 2. Hark, the voice of one who's cry - ing In the des - ert
 3. O make straight what long was crook - ed, Make the rough - er



1. says our God; Com - fort those who sit in dark - ness,
 2. far and near, Bid - ding all to full re - pent - ance
 3. plac - es plain; Let your hearts be true and hum - ble,



1. Mourn - ing 'neath their sor - rows' load, Speak un - to Je -
 2. Since the king - dom now is here. O that warn - ing
 3. As be - fits his ho - ly reign. For the glo - ry



1. ru - sa - lem Of the peace that waits for them;
 2. cry o - bey! Now pre - pare for God a way;
 3. of the Lord Now o'er earth is shed a - broad;



1. Tell of all the sins I cov - er,
 2. Let the val - leys rise to meet him
 3. And all flesh shall see the to - ken



1. And that war - fare now is o - ver.
 2. And the hills bow down to greet him.
 3. That his word is nev - er bro - ken.

Text: 87 87 77 88; based on Isaiah 40:1-8; Johann G. Olearius, 1611-1684; tr. by Catherine Winkworth, 1827-1878, alt.
 Music: GENEVA 42, alt. *Genevan Psalter*, 1551; Claude Goudimel, 1514-1572; arr. Gerard Chiusano.
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