

## GOD, SING IN ME A SONG OF LOVE

Barbara Hamm

God, sing in me a song of love;  
let praise be on my tongue,  
for all the mercies you have shown  
and those not yet begun.

God, think in me the thoughts of peace,  
and calm my anxious fear,  
until I learn to trust your word  
and rest in you, secure.

God, find in me the will to serve  
the dispossessed and poor,  
whose need becomes for me a prayer  
that opens love's full store.

God, take my heart, my mind, my voice,  
my talent, art, and skill;  
all that is mine I give to you,  
your purpose to fulfill.

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Lamentations 3:22–23 • Matthew 25:34–40 • Galatians 6:9–10 •  
Colossians 3:15–16

This text was over a year in the making: a prayer for God to use all my faculties—voice, mind, and heart—to do God’s work in the world. The first line emerged spontaneously during the summer of 2018 as I was down at the water in the town where I live, a setting from which I often draw inspiration for my hymns. The idea of God’s using me as an instrument to sing God’s song seems natural enough for a musician, and the first verse came readily. From there the text explored other faculties that God might use. Note here that God is the actor in each verse, my part being the willingness for God to work through me.

It took me a long time to determine the ordering of verses two and three. Must anxious fear be calmed before one is able to serve? Or does willing service lead to inner calm? I needed to observe and reflect upon my own inner processes before finally arriving at the conclusion that a calm and peaceful mind (verse 2) is more likely to lead to willing service (verse 3). I did not initially recognize that the peace and beauty of the natural setting itself in which this hymn emerged was perhaps a clue. Once that question was settled, I was able to write the final verse.

*Use:* Holy Orders, Christian Life, Discipleship, Rite of Religious Profession,  
Love for Others, Petition/Prayer, Praise, Social Concern, Trust



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AZMON

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1. praise be on my tongue, for all the mer - cies  
2. calm my anx - ious fear, un - til I learn to  
3. dis - pos - sessed and poor, whose need be - comes for  
4. tal - ent, art, and skill; all that is mine I

1. you have shown and — those not yet be - gun.  
2. trust your word and — rest in you, se - cure.  
3. me a prayer that — o - pens love's full store.  
4. give to you, your — pur - pose to ful - fill.

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Music: AZMON; Carl Gotthilf Gläser, 1784–1829; keyboard acc. by Lowell Mason, 1792–1872, alt.

