



Amazing LOVE

A CONCERT TO CELEBRATE THE
250TH ANNIVERSARY OF AMAZING GRACE

TUE | 14 FEB 2023 | 12PM

ST ANDREW'S ANGLICAN CHURCH CAMBRIDGE

85 HAMILTON ROAD

SUGGESTED \$10 ENTRANCE

ORGAN & PIANO DUO

Jesse Roberts | USA

Eon Malan | NZ



musicinsacredspaces.info

PROGRAMME

Tocatta on Amazing Grace

JESSE ROBERTS

The story behind Amazing Grace

Merv Hunt

Amazing Grace

JESSE ROBERTS

HYMN: Amazing Grace

PIANO & ORGAN DUO

You'll Never Walk Alone (Carousel) & Some Enchanted Evening

PIANO DUO

I Can Show You the World from *Aladdin*

PIANO DUO

River Flows in You

PIANO DUO

Blessed Assurance

PIANO DUO

***Allegro vivace assai* from Sonata I, Op. 65**

EON MALAN

Here I Am, Lord

PIANO & ORGAN DUO

Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise

ORGAN DUO

Variations on Amazing Grace

EON MALAN

HYMN: Amazing Grace

1. Amazing grace (how sweet the sound)
that saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost, but now am found,
was blind, but now I see.

2. 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear,
and grace my fears relieved;
how precious did that grace appear
the hour I first believed!

3. Through many dangers, toils and snares
I have already come:
'tis grace has brought me safe thus far,
and grace will lead me home.

4. The Lord has promised good to me,
his word my hope secures;
he will my shield and portion be
as long as life endures.

5. Yes, when this flesh and heart shall fail,
and mortal life shall cease:
I shall possess, within the veil,
a life of joy and peace.

6. The earth shall soon dissolve like snow,
the sun forbear to shine;
but God, who called me here below,
will be forever mine.

The story behind Amazing Grace

Text: Origins

The story of “Amazing grace” often includes the story of John Newton’s seafaring life and the brutal storm he survived on 21 March 1748, a story Newton recounted in a series of letters, published as *An Authentic Narrative of Some Remarkable and Interesting Particulars in the Life of [Mr. Newton]* (1st ed., 1764), especially letters VII and VIII. This near-catastrophe led to a spiritual awakening that he remembered the rest of his life. Nonetheless, his journey from ocean to Olney was much longer than a singular voyage. Despite his spiritual renewal on that ship, he continued in the slave trade until 1753, when a serious downturn in his health provoked him to give up his seafaring and enter the ministry.

Newton was appointed to the church at Olney in 1764. “Amazing grace” seems to have been written in connection with a sermon he delivered on New Years Day, 1773, based on 1 Chronicles 17:16–17. His sermon notes, held at the Lambeth Palace Library (MS 2940), read:

We had not so much a desire of deliverance. Instead of desiring the Lord's help, we breathed a spirit of defiance against him. His mercy came to us not only undeserved but undesired. Yea few [of] us but resisted his calls, and when he knocked at the door of our hearts endeavored to shut him out till, he overcame us by the power of his grace.[1]

A few years later, Newton referenced this amazing grace in a letter to John Thornton, 12 Sept. 1776:

. . . surely no one could be a greater libertine in principle or practice, more abandoned or more daring than I. But I obtained mercy. I hardly feel any stronger proof of remaining depravity than in my having so faint a sense of the Amazing Grace that snatched me from ruin, that pardoned such enormous sins, preserved my life when I stood upon the brink of eternity and could only be preserved by miracle, and changed a disposition which seemed so incurably obstinate and given up to horrid wickedness.[2]

The hymn was first published in *Olney Hymns* (1779 | Fig. 1), titled “Faith’s review and expectation,” with the scripture reference of 1 Chronicles 17:16–17, given in six stanzas of four lines, without music.

Tune: NEW BRITAIN

By far, the most commonly associated tune is an American folk tune, known mainly by the name NEW BRITAIN. The earliest surviving appearance of the tune is on the back of a letter written by Cephas Chapin (1804–1828) to his father Lucius Chapin (1760–1842). Cephas had died on 25 July 1828; his father’s transcription of the tune BRAINARD was dated 13 August 1828. This tune is also known as INDIAN’S FAREWELL or PARTING FRIENDS. The other unnamed tune resembling NEW BRITAIN was not dated but appears to have been notated around the same time (Fig. 5). The letter is held by the Cincinnati Museum Center Library and Archives.