

# Eternal Father, Strong to Save

#1099 with many options, Scored for World Ensemble of the 3rd Millennium  
Hymn by William Whiting in 1860, Music by John B. Dykes in 1861  
arranged for World Ensemble by © Stephen Melillo IGNA 31 July 2014, 2nd & 3rd Millennium, ASCAP  
Commissioned by

**Das Musikkorps der Bundeswehr**  
(Concert Band of the German Armed Forces)  
**Oberstleutnant Christoph Scheibling**

Like the Sea itself, the motion and dynamic, the great rise and fall, the moving forward and the receding back... reside in the Soul of the Conductor and the Musicians. But caution. It should never become fast. Because indeed, this languid Prayer is sung or played for **“they who go down to the Sea in ships...” and for that reason, and written on 31 July 2014, it is dedicated to the Souls of the USS INDIANAPOLIS.**

This 2 verse arrangement may be repeated to allow for 4 full verses with varying orchestrations and intensities. **“World Ensemble”** works allow for great collaboration between Composer/arranger and Conductor/Musicians.

For instance, the chorus can sing texts or not. There might be no chorus at all, or any combination of Band, Chorus and Orchestra and all of its subsequent “choirs” to be conjoined and explored. On varied sections for example, the conductor may ask only the Clarinet Choir to sustain the hymn, etc. Texts may be spoken over Music... Music played as a backdrop to slides, *Quicktime* movie or any projection, including dance. Much is possible. You are at **Liberty** to join in the crafting and allow this Music to reach the Hearts and Souls of many.

The History of the hymn is fascinating, with much to be found on *Wikipedia*, etc. The original Hymn was most likely inspired by *Psalm 107: 23-26*.

***Some went out on the sea in ships; they were merchants on the mighty waters.  
They saw the works of the Lord, his wonderful deeds in the deep.  
For he spoke and stirred up a tempest that lifted high the waves.  
They mounted up to the heavens and went down to the depths;  
in their peril their courage melted away.***

If choosing a Chorus singing Texts, The original words of the 1861 version by William Whiting are:

Eternal Father, strong to save,  
Whose arm hath bound the restless wave,  
Who bidd’st the mighty ocean deep  
Its own appointed limits keep;  
Oh, hear us when we cry to Thee,  
For those in peril on the sea!

O Christ! Whose voice the waters heard  
And hushed their raging at Thy word,  
Who walkedst on the foaming deep,  
And calm amidst its rage didst sleep;  
Oh, hear us when we cry to Thee,  
For those in peril on the sea!

Most Holy Spirit! Who didst brood  
Upon the chaos dark and rude,  
And bid its angry tumult cease,  
And give, for wild confusion, peace;  
Oh, hear us when we cry to Thee,  
For those in peril on the sea!

O Trinity of love and power!  
Our brethren shield in danger’s hour;  
From rock and tempest, fire and foe,  
Protect them wheresoe’er they go;  
Thus evermore shall rise to Thee  
Glad hymns of praise from land and sea.

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# Eternal Father, Strong to Save

John B. Dykes 1861

With Great Rise & Fall, Dynamics & Movement as Felt...

Arranged by © Stephen Melillo IGNA 31 July 2014, 2-3 Millennium

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ASCAP

This musical score is arranged for a large ensemble. It includes parts for Soprano, Alto, Tenor, and Bass voices, each with the instruction *p*-with dynamics as felt... The woodwind section consists of Flute 1, 2, and 3; Oboe 1 and 2; Bassoon 1 and 2; Clarinet 1, 2, and 3; Bass Clarinet in Bb; Alto Sax 1 and 2; Tenor Sax; and Bari Sax. The brass section includes Horn 1 (with a *Solo mp* marking), Horn 2, Horn 3, Trumpet 1, 2, and 3, Trombone-Eupho 1, 2, and 3, and Tuba. The percussion section includes PAD Bass/Str Bass, Chimes, Timpani, Snare Drum, and Crash Sus. Cymbal B. Drum (with a *mp* marking). The string section includes Violin 1 and 2, Viola, Cello, and Bass, all with the instruction *p*-with dynamics as felt... The score is in 4/4 time and features complex phrasing with many slurs and dynamic markings.