



# Gospel Classics

Arranged by **Mark Hayes**

## 12 Artistic Arrangements for Worship Services, Concerts and Recitals

From my first memories as a child to my present career as a composer and arranger, hymns and gospel songs have been an important piece in the musical fabric of my life. I started playing piano for congregational worship when I was 13 years old. During my high school years, I sang in the church choir. While at college, I learned to arrange hymns for various choral groups. Shortly after graduation, my first collection of solo piano arrangements for church pianists was published, fulfilling a dream of mine.

During devotional times, favorite old hymns are often what I play at the piano. As an arranger, I look for ways to breathe new life into old gospel songs. As a worship leader, I receive immense satisfaction when I see worshipers respond to a new setting of an old hymn and experience its timeless truth in a fresh way.

Despite the changes in worship that are occurring in churches all over the world, hymns and gospel songs—the music of our faith traditions—are alive and well and still very important to us. These old melodies and messages connect with us on a deeply emotional and spiritual level. They feed and nourish our souls.

To that end, I am pleased to present this collection of classic hymns and gospel songs—my first piano collection with Alfred Publishing. It's always a challenge for me to find the "heart" of a song and express that in my own unique way. You'll find these arrangements to be joyous, reflective, passionate and playful. May they delight your ears, stir your spirit, and feed your soul.

*Mark Hayes*

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A CD recording of the selections contained in this book, performed by Mark Hayes, is available.

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ISBN 0-7390-3104-X (Book)

