

Amazing Grace

arranged for SATB Choir and Chamber Orchestra

by Douglas Mears

Instrumentation

Flute

Clarinet in A

Horns in F 1, 2, and 3

Timpani

Percussion

Orchestra Bells

Chimes

Wind Chimes

Suspended Cymbal

Harp

SATB Choir

Violin I

Violin II

Viola Cello

Contrabass

Notes

“Amazing Grace” is one of the most beloved hymns of the last two centuries. The inspiring text, written by John Newton in the late eighteenth century, is a powerful assurance and declaration of the grace of God.

When Newton was just eleven, he joined his father at sea and began a tumultuous life in the Navy, eventually becoming captain of a slave ship. In a period of four years, however, his life was drastically turned around: he nearly drowned, he married a very pious Mary Catlett, and he read through Thomas à Kempis’ *Imitation of Christ*. In 1754 he gave up the slave trade and joined forces with the great abolitionist, William Wilberforce. A number of years later, he was ordained for ministry, and soon after wrote this great hymn, declaring that believers are saved only by God’s grace.

This new arrangement of the anonymous hymn tune *New Britain* for SATB choir and chamber orchestra reflects the quiet confidence found in trusting God’s amazing grace.