

## It Is Well With My Soul

Philip P. Bliss

Arranged by Timothy DeWitt

*It Is Well with My Soul* has become perhaps one of the most cherished hymns in the Christian tradition, and certainly one of the most well-known of those composed by Philip P. Bliss (1838-1876). Its message of hope and comfort (even through times of grief and uncertainty) has been profound inspiration for many, confirmed by audience response to performances of this arrangement by Timothy DeWitt. The first and last verses of the hymn follow.

When peace, like a river, attendeth my way,  
When sorrows like sea billows roll;  
Whatever my lot, Thou hast taught me to say,  
It is well, it is well, with my soul.

And, Lord, haste the day when my faith shall be sight,  
The clouds be rolled back as a scroll;  
The trump shall resound, and the Lord shall descend,  
Even so, it is well with my soul.

The writer of the text, Horatio G. Spafford (1828-1888), had experienced two great tragedies in his life—the great Chicago fire of 1871 (which ruined him financially), and shortly thereafter, the death of his four daughters in the great collision of two ships on the Atlantic Ocean—the *S.S. Ville du Havre*, for which the hymn tune was later named, and a sailing ship, the *Lockport*. It has been said that Spafford wrote the words shortly after his own ship passed near to the spot where his daughters had perished.

Ironically, Bliss set the text to music the same year that he and his wife Lucy J. Young, also a poet and musician, met a tragic death. The couple's snowy return to Chicago from a Christmas visit in Pennsylvania was delayed by a mishap to a train engine, and they therefore became passengers on the train which broke through a bridge and plunged some seventy feet into the waters of the Ashtabula River in Ohio. It was reported that Bliss survived the initial crash and escaped through a window, but he could not free his wife from the wreckage and therefore perished with her in the ensuing flames.

This arrangement was written for the Alderson-Broadus College Brass Choir, and was originally dedicated to two influential teachers whose contributions were far greater than the years they lived. Some of the descending chromatic lines were influenced by the harmonies of Richard Wagner. Flexible tempo and careful attention to balance are key components in successful performance; and the modulation to D Major via augmented sixth chord is particularly moving when approached *espressivo*. If more than one person is used per part, it is recommended that the trombone and trumpet entrances in m. 20 and m. 22, respectively, (and the corresponding parts in m. 50 and m. 52) be performed as solos. Clarity of articulation by the horn in m. 57, and by both horn and euphonium in m. 62, emphasizes the final declamation of the hymn text, "It is Well".

ISBN: 9781554734740

CATALOG NUMBER: BC2970

COST: \$20.00

DURATION: 3:45

DIFFICULTY RATING: Medium

Brass Choir (2.1.1.1.1)

for the Alderson-Broadus College Brass Choir  
**IT IS WELL WITH MY SOUL**

P. Bliss  
(1838-1876)  
Arranged by Timothy DeWitt

Espressivo  $\text{♩} = 70$       2      3      4 *rit.*

B♭ Trumpet 1

B♭ Trumpet 2 (optional Flugelhorn)

F Horn

Trombone

Euphonium

Tuba

*mp*      *mf*      *ten.*      *lead* *ten.*

**PREVIEW ONLY**

a Tempo

Tpt 1

Tpt 2

Hn

Trbn

Euph

Tuba

*mp*      *mp*      *mp*

10 11 12 13 A 14

Tpt 1

Tpt 2 *Flugelhorn* *under horn*  
*mf*

Hn *mf*

Trbn *mf*

Euph *mf*

Tuba *mf*

PREVIEW ONLY

15 16 17 18 19

Tpt 1

Tpt 2

Hn

Trbn

Euph *to the fore* ,

Tuba ,

20 21 **B** 22 lead 23 24 N.B.

Tpt 1 *mp*

Tpt 2 N.B.

Hn *mp*

Trbn lead *mp*

Euph *mp*

Tuba *mp*

PREVIEW ONLY

25 26 27 28 29 **C**

Tpt 1 *mf*

Tpt 2 *mf* *mp*

Hn *mf* *mp*

Trbn *mf* *mp*

Euph *mf* *mp*

Tuba *mf*

30 31 32 ten. (N.B.) *slight accel.* 34 *rit.* ten.

*p* *f*

ten. N.B. to Trumpet ten.

ten. N.B. ten.

ten. N.B. ten.

ten. N.B. ten.

ten. N.B. ten.

*mp*

# PREVIEW ONLY

35 36 37 38 39

*D* *pi mos to ma maestoso*  $\bullet = 7$

Trumpet *f*

*f*

*f*

*f*

*f*

40 41 42 43 44

Tpt 1 *ff*

Tpt 2 N.B. *ff*

Hn *ff*

Trbn *ff*

Euph *ff*

Tuba *ff*

PREVIEW ONLY

45 46 47 48 49

Tpt 1

Tpt 2

Hn

Trbn

Euph

Tuba

50 *, espressivo* 51 E 52 lead 53 54 ten. ,

Tpt 1 *mf* *mf*

Tpt 2 , to Flugel *mf* Flugel ten. ,

Hn *mf* *mf* ten. ,

Trbn , lead *mf* ten. ,

Euph *mf* *mf* ten. ,

Tuba *mf* *mf* ten. ,

PREVIEW ONLY

55 56 57 58 59 F *Slower* ♩ = 60

Tpt 1

Tpt 2 *p*

Hn to the fore *p*

Trbn *p*

Euph

Tuba

Musical score for brass instruments (Tpt 1, Tpt 2, Hn, Trbn, Euph, Tuba) from measures 60 to 64. The score includes dynamics (p, mp), a ritardando (rit.) marking, and performance instructions like 'with Euph' and 'with Horn'.

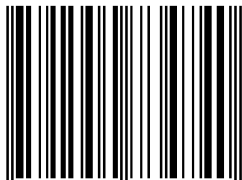
PREVIEW ONLY



PREVIEW ONLY

# PREVIEW ONLY

ISBN 978-1-55473-474-0



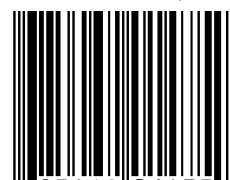
9 781554 734740

Exclusively distributed  
in the United States by:



[www.alfred.com](http://www.alfred.com)

**BC2970**      **\$20.00**



6 85462 01475 0