

Amazing Grace



History

"Amazing Grace" came to be an emblem of a religious movement and a symbol of the U.S. itself as the country was involved in a great political experiment, attempting to employ democracy as a means of government. Shape note singing communities, with all the members sitting around an open center, each song employing a different director, illustrated this in practice. Simultaneously, the U.S. began to expand westward into previously unexplored territory that was often wilderness. The "dangers, toils, and snares" of Newton's lyrics had both literal and figurative meanings for Americans. This became poignantly true during the most serious test of American cohesion in the U.S. Civil War (1861–1865).

"Amazing Grace" set to "New Britain" was included in two hymnals distributed to soldiers and with death so real and imminent, religious services in the military became commonplace. The hymn was translated into other languages as well: while on the Trail of Tears, the Cherokee sang Christian hymns as a way of coping with the ongoing tragedy, and a version of the song by Samuel Worcester which had been translated into Tsalagi became very popular.

The Arrangement

I have arranged this song for three levels of play. Easy, Intermediate and Advanced.

EASY

The "Easy" Arrangement uses basic chords and normally no rhythm. You may want to play the melody first, then play the chords and finally put it all together. Notice on the first line, Measure one and fifth line, Measure two, there are three triplet notes. Ever wonder just how to play "triplet notes" Well, say the word "triplet" and break it in to three syllables. TRIP - O - LET So, here is the way you would play the first measure in line three **E**[TRIP] , **D**[O] , **C**[LET] Play is a few times to get the feel of playing these notes smoothly.

Intermediate

The "Intermediate" Arrangement introduces many additional chords from the "Easy" arrangement. Notice on the first line, Measure one and fifth line, Measure three, there are three triplet notes. Ever wonder just how to play "triplet notes" Well, say the word "triplet" and break it in to three syllables. TRIP - O - LET So, here is the way you would play the first measure in line three **E**[TRIP] , **D**[O] , **C**[LET] Play is a few times to

get the feel of playing these notes smoothly. When using one of the suggested Rhythms, start the song with Intro 2 and use Ending 2.

ADVANCE

The "Advance" Arrangement uses many advanced chords and melody notes. Please notice I use "grace notes" which will give you the Southern Gospel feel. Notice on the third line, Measure one there are three triplet notes. Ever wonder just how to play "triplet notes" Well, say the word "triplet" and break it in to three symbols. TRI - O - LET So, here is the way you would play the first Measure in line two **E**[TRIP , **D**[O] , **C**[LET] Play this a few times to get the feel of playing these notes smoothly. Notice on line five, Measure two there is a "gliss", this is short for glissando. This is played by using your thumb on your right hand, gliding it up a few notes. How many notes you ask? As many as you can before you play the A note on the Third beat. Also, line six, Measure two there is a "8va" this means for you to play one octave higher than normal.

Rhythm suggestions:

Soulful, Southern 3/4, 6/8 Piano, Country Waltz, Guitar 3/4, Smooth Piano 3/4

Right hand/Melody Sounds:

Piano, Jazz Organ, Full Organ, Elec. Piano

Lyrics

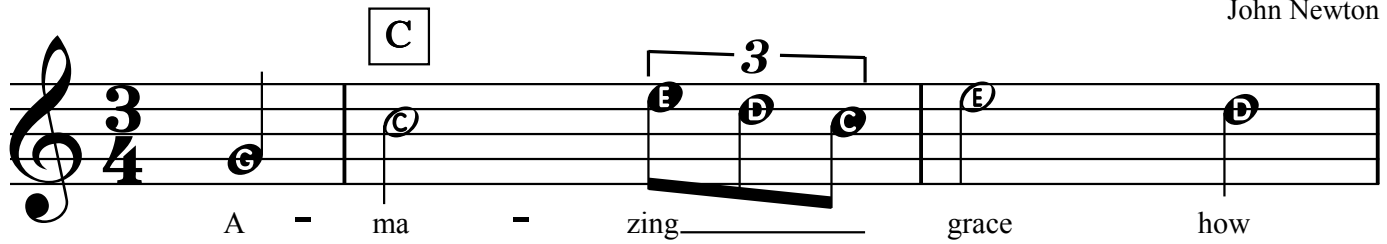
Amazing grace! How sweet the sound
That saved a wretch like me.
I once was lost, but now am found,
Was blind but now I see.

When we've been there ten thousand years,
Bright shining as the sun,
We've no less days to sing God's praise,
Than when we first begun.

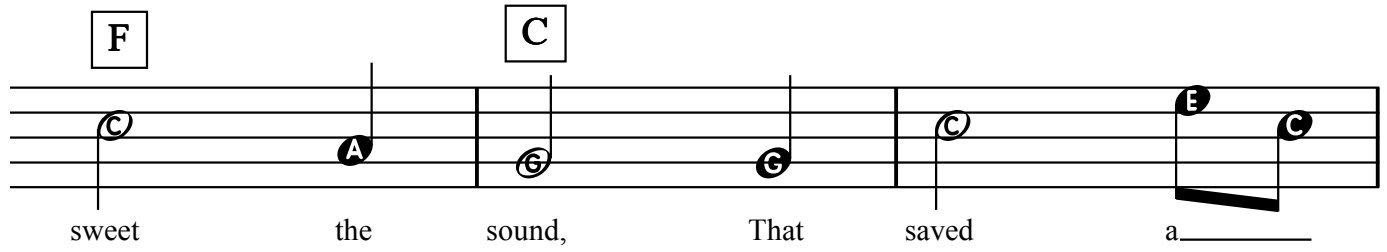
Amazing Grace

Easy

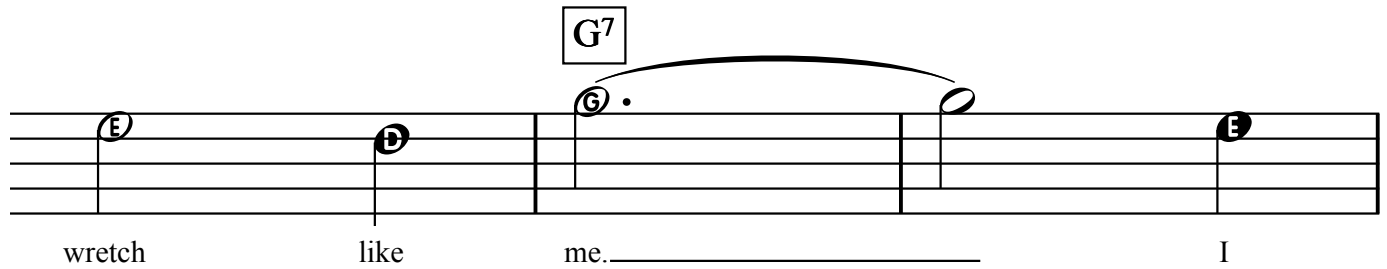
John Newton



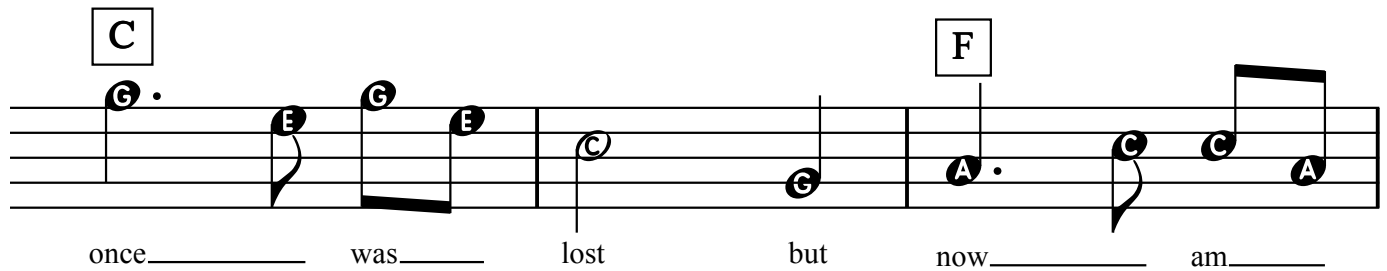
A - ma - zing grace how



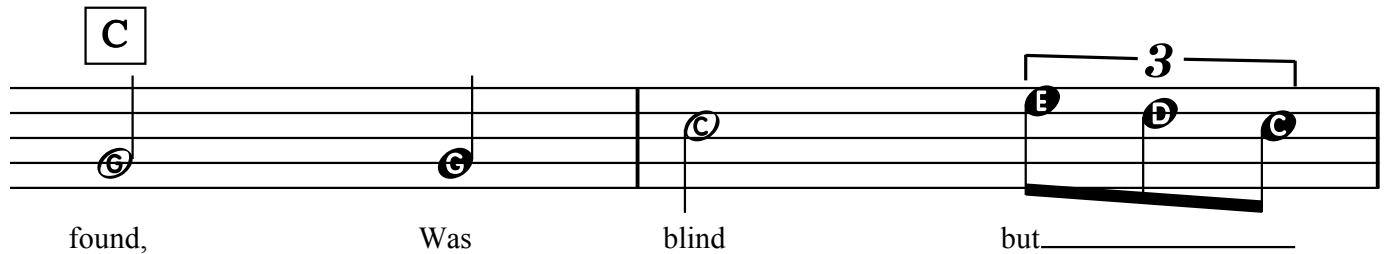
sweet the sound, That saved a



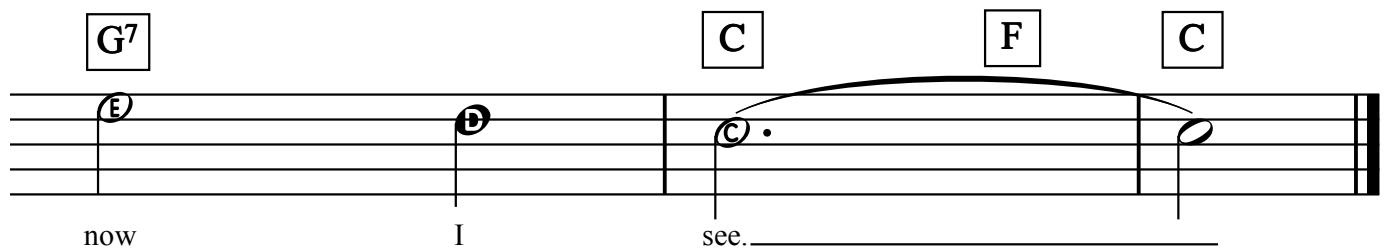
wretch like me. I



once was lost but now am



found, Was blind but



now I see.

Amazing Grace

Intermediate

John Newton

C **Last Bar of Intro** **C**

Intro
(Use Intro 2 if available)

A - ma - zing

E **F** **C**

grace how sweet the sound, That

Am **D7** **Dm7**

saved a wretch like me.

G7 **C** **Gm7** **C7**

I once was lost but

F **C** **Am**

now am found, Was blind but

Dm7 **G7** **C** **F** **C** **Press Ending**

now I see.

Amazing Grace

Advanced

John Newton

C

Last Bar of Intro

Intro

3

Cmaj7 **C⁹** **Fmaj7**

6

Cmaj7 **Am7**

8

F#m7b5 **Dm7** **G7** **Gm7**

12

C⁹ **Fmaj7** **F#m7b5**

14

Cmaj7 **Am7**

8va

(8)

16 F#m7b5 Dm7 G7 C Fm C

19 Gm7 C9

21 Fmaj7 F#m7b5 Em7

23 Am7 F#m7b5 Abdim7

25 Am AmA7 Am7 D7

27 Dm7

28 G7 Cmaj7 **Press Ending**



Just A Closer Walk With Thee

History

The author of "A Closer Walk" is unknown. Circumstantial evidence strongly suggests it dates back to southern African-American churches of the 2nd half of the 19th century, possibly even earlier. The song became better known nationally in the 1930s when African-American churches held huge musical conventions. In the 1940s, a boom of recordings in many genera recorded the number, ranging from Southern gospel to jazz and brass bands.

The first known recording was by the Selah Jubilee Singers on October 8, 1941, (Decca Records 7872) New York City; with Thurman Ruth and John Ford lead vocal; Fred Baker, lead baritone; Monroe Clark, baritone; J. B. Nelson, bass vocal; and Fred Baker on guitar.[2] Rosetta Tharpe also recorded the song on December 2, 1941 (Decca 8594), with Lucky Millinder and His Orchestra.

The revived interest in traditional New Orleans jazz resulted in multiple recordings of the number, including a 1945 session by Bunk Johnson's Brass Band featuring numbers Johnson had played in New Orleans before he left in 1915.

In 1950, it was a million-seller for Red Foley.

In 1958, an unreleased home recording was recorded by Elvis Presley. made in Waco, Texas on May 27. Presley's studio version can be heard on *Just A Closer Walk With Thee* (2000) (Czech CD on Memory label). Tennessee Ernie Ford made the charts with it in the late 1950s. By the end of the 1970s, more than a hundred artists had recorded the song.

The Arrangement

I have arranged this song for three levels of play. Easy, Intermediate and Advanced.

EASY

The "Easy" Arrangement uses basic chords and normally no rhythm. You may want to play the melody first, then play the chords and finally put it all together.

Intermediate

The "Intermediate" Arrangement introduces many additional chords from the "Easy" arrangement. Notice on the third line, Measure one there are three triplet notes. Ever wonder just how to play "triplet notes" Well, say the word "triplet" and break it in to three syllables. TRIP - O - LET So, here is the way you would play the first measure in line three **C**[TRIP] , **A**[O] , **G**[LET] Play is a few times to get the feel of playing these notes smoothly.

ADVANCE

The "Advance" Arrangement uses many advanced chords and melody notes. Please notice I use "grace notes" which will give you the Southern Gospel feel. Notice on the third line, Measure one there are three triplet notes. Ever wonder just how to play "triplet notes" Well, say the word "triplet" and break it in to three symbols. TRI - O - LET So, here is the way you would play the first measure in line three **C**[TRIP , **A**[O] , **G**[LET] Play this a few times to get the feel of playing these notes smoothly. Notice on line five, Measure one there is a "gliss", this is short for glissando. This is played by using your thumb on your right hand, gliding it to the left a few notes. How many notes you ask? As many as you can before you play the C note on the fourth beat.

Rhythm suggestions:

Shoutn'. Soulful, Slow EZ Blues, Piano Offering, Revival, Hand Clappin'

Right hand/Melody Sounds:

Piano, Jazz Organ, Full Organ, Elec. Piano

Lyrics

Just a closer walk with Thee,
Grant it, Jesus, is my plea,
Daily walking close to Thee,
Let it be, dear Lord, let it be.

I am weak, but Thou art strong,
Jesus, keep me from all wrong,
I'll be satisfied as long
As I walk, let me walk close to Thee.

Through this world of toil and snares,
If I falter, Lord, who cares?
Who with me my burden shares?
None but Thee, dear Lord, none but Thee.

When my feeble life is o'er,
Time for me will be no more,
Guide me gently, safely o'er
To Thy kingdom's shore, to Thy shore.

Just A Closer Walk With Thee

Intermediate

Intro

(Use Intro 2 if available)

Dm7 G7 Dm7 G7

C Dm7 G7 Gm7 C7

F F#dim7 C

1.

Dm7 G7 C Dm7 G7

2. **Press Ending**

Dm7 G7 C Fm C

Just A Closer Walk With Thee

Advanced

Cmaj⁷ Cmaj⁷ Em⁷ E^bm⁷

Dm⁷ G⁷ Dm⁷ G⁷

Cmaj⁷ Dm⁷ G⁷ Gm⁷

Em^{7b5} C⁷ Fmaj⁷

F#dim⁷ Em⁷ Am⁷ 3

Dm⁷ G⁷ 3 Cmaj⁷ Dm⁷ D^b9

Cmaj⁷ Em⁷ E^bm⁷ Dm⁷ G⁷

Musical staff 1: Cmaj⁷ Em⁷ E^bm⁷ Dm⁷ G⁷. The staff shows a sequence of notes: C4, G#4, A4, E4, G4, G4, F4, G4, with a slur over the last two notes.

Dm⁷ G⁷

Musical staff 2: Dm⁷ G⁷. The staff shows notes: D#4, D4, C4, D4, B3, A3, A3, G3, G3, A3, C4, with a triplet of C4, D4, D#4 and a triplet of A3, G3, G3.

Cmaj⁷ Dm⁷ G⁷

Musical staff 3: Cmaj⁷ Dm⁷ G⁷. The staff shows notes: C4, A3, G3, G3, D4, D4, G4, A4, G4, F4, with a triplet of G4, A4, G4.

Gm⁷ Em^{7b5} C⁷

Musical staff 4: Gm⁷ Em^{7b5} C⁷. The staff shows notes: E4, E4, E4, E4, C4, D4, E4, G4, with a slur over the first two notes.

Fmaj⁷ F#dim⁷

Musical staff 5: Fmaj⁷ F[#]dim⁷. The staff shows notes: D#4, C4, C4, A3, C4, D4, E4, D4, C4, A3, with a triplet of A3, C4, D4.

Cmaj⁷ Dm⁷ G⁷ C Press Ending

Musical staff 6: Cmaj⁷ Dm⁷ G⁷ C Press Ending. The staff shows notes: C4, G3, G3, G3, G3, E4, A4, B4, C4, with a triplet of G3, G3, G3.