

Week 1: Paraphrase

Hymns as Paraphrase

- Using scripture as a basis for music has a long tradition in the Christian church, from Jewish synagogue singing through medieval chants, but its best-known proponent is the protestant reformer John Calvin, who wrote:

In truth we know by experience that singing has great force and vigor to move and inflame the hearts of men to invoke and praise God with a more vehement and ardent zeal. Care must always be taken that the song be neither light nor frivolous; but that it have weight and majesty... We shall not find better songs nor songs better suited to [worship] than the Psalms of David which the Holy Spirit made and uttered through him.

- Calvin took a hard line against adapting secular songs and limited all church music to the singing of psalms.
- In 1562, Calvin published the *Genevan Psalter*, a translation of all 150 psalms with tunes written mainly by Louis Bourgeois, many of which are still in use.

The King of Love My Shepherd Is

Text: Henry Williams Baker (1821–1877), 1868

- Son of a Vice Admiral in the British Navy, educated at Trinity College, Cambridge
- Entered the ministry immediately after his graduation, and became ordained at age 24
- Following the writing of his first hymn in 1852, realized a need to standardize hymns in the Anglican church
- Eventually, this led to his editing the very influential *Hymns Ancient and Modern* (1861)

Tune: Traditional Irish

- For its initial publishing, John Bacchus Dykes wrote an original tune for this text named DOMINUS REGIT ME
 - Copyright issues prevented editors of *The English Hymnal* (1906) from using Dykes' tune, choosing to adapt the traditional Irish ST. COLUMBA instead
 - Despite the split, both tunes remain popular choices for this hymn
- The mark of a good paraphrase is one that stays true to the meaning of the text, but still retains the unique voice and perspective of its author. In what ways does Baker's text strengthen or expand on the original scripture?

He Leadeth Me

Text: Joseph H. Gilmore (1834–1918), 1862

- Temporarily preaching at the First Baptist Church in Philadelphia, Gilmore prepared a sermon on Psalm 23
- While talking after the service, Gilmore jotted the verses on the back of his sermon notes
- Without his knowledge, his wife sent the text to *Watchman and Reflector* magazine, who published it
- Gilmore only discovered this in 1865 while visiting a Rochester, New York church and saw it in their hymnal

Tune: William Bradbury (1816–1868), 1864

- As a child, studied music in Boston with Lowell Mason (known for tunes to "Joy to the World", "O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing", and others)
 - Followed Mason's footsteps in advocating music education for children, organizing popular singing festivals
 - After seeing Gilmore's text in *Watchman and Reflector*, composed AUGHTON to match
 - Following some alterations (including expanding the refrain), published the result in 1864
- Rather than paraphrasing the whole of Psalm 23, the text is really a simple expansion of verse 2 only. Given its simplicity, why do you think this hymn has remained so popular over the years? What is it about the text and tune that contribute to its lasting popularity?

The God of Love My Shepherd Is

Text: George Herbert (1593–1633), 1633

- Born into a prominent, wealthy family, but whose father died when he was three
- Herbert's mother believed in the arts, and was a patron of the poet John Donne, among others

- After graduating from Trinity College, Cambridge, was elected Public Orator for the university and hoped for a career in politics
- However, death of his main supporters in 1625 (including King James I) caused him to pursue ministry instead
- Wrote a considerable amount of poetry on top of his regular duties as rector at a rural church
- Having suffered from poor health most his life, died of consumption just three years after his ordination

Tune: Roy Hopp (1951–), 1992

- Graduate of Calvin College as well as Michigan State and Concordia universities
 - Served as Director of Music in churches across Colorado and West Michigan
 - Over 80 tunes have been published in the U.S., Canada, and Great Britain
1. Compared to Gilmore's "scenes of deepest gloom", Herbert's "shady black abode" seems more cool and quiet than it does scary. Is it easier to wander away from God when you're surrounded by trials and tribulations or when things are calm and "not that bad"?