

## Frequently Asked Questions about *The Book of Psalms for Worship*

### 1—*What are the main differences between The Book of Psalms for Worship and the 1973 Book of Psalms for Singing?*

Textually, *The Book of Psalms for Worship* finishes what the 1973 psalter began, putting all the versifications in modern English—except for the “historic” selections Psalms 23B, 24B and 100A. Also, the tetragrammaton, the name of God (YHVH), is rendered as LORD, except for Psalm 23B (GOD), 100A (HIM) and Psalm 83 (Yahweh).

Musically, many high-range selections have been rewritten into lower key, no chants are included, and some new tunes have been introduced.

### 2—*How many new tunes are introduced?*

135 out of 459 selections. Only 28 of those are new compositions. 102 are from other hymnals and sources, including 2 from the 1950 *Book of Psalms with Music*, 7 from *Psalm Settings*, and 44 that are generally well-known tunes.

### 3—*Were there changes made to modern-language versifications from the 1973 psalter?*

Yes. Though these changes are minor, congregations will want to follow the printed words.

### 4—*Were there changes made to familiar tunes?*

Yes, here is a list of selections that have some changes in the harmony of familiar tunes, usually a simplification to aid singing:

1A/21B (Ellacombe), 8C (Stroudwater), 10B (Sursum Corda), 16A (Medfield), 17A (St. Andrew), 18BF (Freuen Wir Uns), 52B/80 (Bryn Calfaria), 91D (Walton, or Gardiner), 104A/61A (Lyons), 110C (St. John), 133A/43A (Azmon), 137A (Neumark)

The following even have slight revisions in the melody:

16B (Abridge), 26A/41A (Kingsfold), 54A/94A/135A (Austria), 63B (Wetherby), 91D/138A (Walton, or Gardiner), 100D (Enter)

### 5—*What else is new in this psalter?*

Four tunes that often are sung with descants, offer the descant for the last stanza (23B, 76B, 120B, and 124). A New Testament scripture that is related to the theology of the psalm is set at the top of each selection. Also, to help users find psalms more quickly, the first line of the psalm is used as a title at the top of each page.

### 6—*Does this mean The Book of Psalms for Singing will no longer be available?*

There are no immediate plans to quit printing *The Book of Psalms for Singing*. That psalter serves a wide and international customer base that will need continued support. In the future, as the quality and singability of *The Book of Psalms for Worship* is tested and appreciated, we expect that the demand for *The Book of Psalms for Singing* will decrease to the point where new printings are no longer needed.

### 7—*How can I best introduce this new psalter to my family and church if I do not read music easily?*

A number of resources will be coming available to help learn new tunes and settings from *The Book of Psalms for Worship*. The first is [www.psalter.org](http://www.psalter.org), where a tune library will be available in a MIDI format. The second is a CD recording of 18 new arrangements. The recording, called *Abundance*, is available on CD or MP3 at [www.crownandcovenant.com](http://www.crownandcovenant.com). The third help is a free Psalm of the Month download at [www.crownandcovenant.com](http://www.crownandcovenant.com), where a digital sampler with written music and MP3's is also available on [www.crownandcovenant.com](http://www.crownandcovenant.com).