

# PRAISE THE LORD! YE HEAVENS,

## ADORE HIM



Agent 007 won't be needed to track down the biblical source of the hymn, "Praise the Lord! Ye Heavens, Adore Him", if you turn to Psalms 148!

Read the scripture aloud to feel its exuberance and joy. Now, sing the hymn to feel its melodic and rhythmic flow. Do **you** think the text and tune reflect the meaning and mood of the Psalm?

The hymn words were found pasted inside the cover of a book called "Psalms, Hymns and Anthems for the Foundling Hospital", and there *is a mystery* concerning the author. Clues that might help you are these:

- (1) The hospital was started in 1739 as a home for deserted children by a merchant sea captain, Thomas Coram.
- (2) The hospital is said to have had a children's choir which the people of London like to hear sing.
- (3) Handel conducted the Messiah at the hospital each year and gave them an organ for their chapel.

Our evidence may never yield a suspect, however, because the institution has since been moved and the building destroyed; but **two verdicts** have come from our case: **First**, "Praise the Lord! Ye Heavens, Adore Him", has remained as one of our finest Christian hymns of praise. **Second**, the foundling hospital experiment, which was quite unusual in 18th century England, has spread so that almost every town has facilities for handicapped and neglected children. Many of our churches contribute to support such institutions and this might be an excellent "special project" for your choir!

We do know that "Hyfrydol" was written by a Welsh man named Rowland H. Prichard. Sometimes the words are sung with the tune "Austrian Hymn" composed by Haydn. Any texts with the same meter may be used with any tunes with the corresponding meter. Look in your metrical index and list several other tunes based on

8.7.8.7.D: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Try a little detective work to uncover the five different rhythmic patterns used in the hymn. Then check below to see how good a sleuth you were:



Which phrases have identical melody lines? Which phrases have identical rhythms? Which phrase uses the highest pitch in the hymn to help build the climax?

Use of **tonic harmony** helps build the feeling of strength in the tune. Draw a circle around each use of a I Chord (F-A-C). (Remember that even though the chord is "inverted" with an "A" or "C" in the bass, it will still be a I Chord if "F-A-C" are used simultaneously in any order.) You should have over 20 Tonic Chords if you are "sharp"!

Long after Agent 007, the Bat Man, and the current crop of imaginary characters are forgotten, people will be reading the 148th Psalm and singing, "Praise the Lord! Ye Heavens, Adore Him!"