



WHEN IN OUR MUSIC GOD IS GLORIFIED

Music holds a very special and important place in the life of the Church and in the lives of God's people. Apparently, God considers it important because the Scriptures are full of references to music. The Psalms are songs themselves and many refer specifically to acts of worship and praise in musical ways (for example, Psalm 150.) "When in Our Music God is Glorified" is a significant hymn for Christians because it tells how music helps us to worship God in the present, as well as how it has aided worship in the past.

Often when we sing hymns, we make the mistake of just singing the words and notes of each phrase in separate units, rather than thinking how each phrase fits together with the others to form complete ideas or thoughts. Read this hymn just as you would read a poem or a story. Does this help you to understand the whole meaning of the text?

Do you know what "Alleluia" means? It means "Praise the Lord!" Sometimes you will find it spelled a different way. Do you know what it is? _____

The Hebrew people used this word quite often in their worship and praise of God. How many other hymns can you think of and sing that have "alleluias" in them?

Now, look at the hymn. Can you answer these questions?

1. Who wrote the words (the hymn)? _____
2. Who wrote the music (the tune)? _____
3. What year did the author write the hymn (the words)? _____
4. What year did the composer write the tune (the music)? _____
5. What is the scripture on which the hymn is based? _____
6. Look up this scripture and find the stanza of the hymn that contains it.
Are they similar? Does the hymn express the scripture well?

The ending of this hymn tune is called an *imperfect cadence* because the last note of the melody is different than the note of the key of the tune (in this case, the key of G.) The last chord is G major, so the harmony is right, but the last note of the melody is D. What do you suppose would be the last note of the melody if it were a *perfect cadence*? The imperfect cadence gives me the feeling that the piece should continue even though it is finished; that it wants to go on, just as our praises and "alleluias" should continue to our Lord. "... and may God give us faith to sing always Alleluia!"