For a long time there has been a need for playable, creative hymn arrangements designed for incomplete or non-traditional instrumental ensembles. Most churches and school music directors never see a balanced, complete instrumentation for their church or school ensembles and are forced to use arrangements intended for complete or even symphonic sets of parts. On the other extreme, the basic four-part blocked chord hymn orchestrations may be used. (David E. Smith Publications offers both of these types of arrangements, also). hymnsembles by Harold E. Burgmayer & Dana F. Everson bridges the gap between the specialized arrangements for specialized instrumentation and the basic four-part writing...

hymnsembles are designed to serve large ensembles with non-traditional, or incomplete, instrumentation. Each selection is a compact but complete arrangement featuring: introduction, well-known melody, contrapuntal interest, textural variety, harmonic freshness and/or modulations, expressive contrast, and a satisfying ending. Groups with limited instrumentation may use the cues and/or switch parts (see below) to balance and customize the arrangement as needed. This allows for creative fashioning for each performance. The conductor score is a reduction of all the instrumental parts while the keyboard may play either the piano fill or duplicate/support the instrumental parts. hymnsembles work well for preludes, postludes, offertories, specials, holidays, sight-reading, concert pieces, weddings, dedications and other events...

hymnsembles are unique in design and intent...

Melody...
- Chosen from a variety of sources-
- Well known and meaningful-
- Presented clearly, then tastefully varied-
- Phrasings, articulations expression-

Harmony...
- Four to five part voicings-
- Modulations-
- Variety of open and close structures-
- Occasional chord substitutions and “color” chords-

Form...
- Introductions, transitions, and endings-
- Complete arrangement on two pages-
- Efficient use of repeats, D.C. and D.S. format-
- Plenty of textural variety-
- Countermelodies and descants-
- Piano or organ may play a fill part or the condensed score-

Color...
- Dynamic variety-
- Woodwind, brass, string, percussion and piano-
- Options and cues to customize for the best possible sound-

Rhythm...
- Always supports, not dominates, the melody-
- Tempo variety-
- Variety of percussion instruments included-

Megascore...
- shows all eight part books-
- 8-1/2 x 14 page size-

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## Assignment of Parts:

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### hymnsembles

By Harold Burgmayer and Dana F. Everson

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