

# Hymn for Strength

SATB and Piano

*Hymn for Strength* was commissioned by the Houston Chamber Choir and written for a combined Healthcare Choir and Houston Chamber Choir led by M J Gallop for Premiere on November 6th, 2021 at South Main Baptist Church in Houston, Texas. With words by Outspoken Bean, Houston's Poet Laureate, and music by J. Todd Frazier, Director of Houston Methodist Hospital's Center for Performing Arts Medicine, the premiere is dedicated to healthcare employees, caregivers and first responders fighting COVID in our community and around the world. Furthermore, the piece is written to be used in support of any challenge facing a community where individuals are called upon to be strong and to give of themselves to care for one another. The music is in the form of a Hymn where the five stanzas are each followed by the returning chorus "I can't go without your love", meaning, during times of crisis, we can gain strength from each other's love and from our faith in order to serve:

The strength within you glows  
The strength within me shows  
*I can't go without your love*

Making it through is not a lone act  
Darkness looms, may I hold your hand  
*I can't go without your love*

Walls built on land, they cover bridges  
Your breakthrough is my breakthrough  
*I can't go without your love*

My internal power is not just for me  
My power, it powers the sick  
*I can't go without your Love*

My power, it powers the caregivers  
My brother, My sister, For Unity  
*I can't go without your Love*

# Hymn for Strength

Written for a Healthcare Employee Choir and the Houston Chamber Choir, for  
Premiere on November 6th, 2021 at South Main Baptist Church in Houston,  
Texas, directed by M J Gallop and dedicated to healthcare employees, caregivers  
and first responders fighting COVID in our community and around the world.

Words  
Emanuelle Bean

Music  
J. Todd Frazier

The musical score is written in 4/4 time. It begins with a tempo marking of **Freely = 82 rit.** and a dynamic of **p**. The vocal parts (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) enter with the lyrics: "The strength with - in you". The piano accompaniment features a melodic line in the right hand and a harmonic line in the left hand, with dynamics ranging from **mp** to **pp**. The tempo then changes to **a tempo**. The score continues with the lyrics: "glows The strength with - in me shows I can't go with-out your". The piano accompaniment becomes more active, with a dynamic of **f**. The score concludes with a final chord in the piano part.

Hymn for Strength, p. 2

8

*rit.* *a tempo*

*p*

love

love

*p*

*p* 3

Ma-king it through is not a

*p* 3

Ma-king it through is not a

*rit.* *a tempo*

*pp*

12

*mf* *p* *f*

lone act dark - ness looms may I hold your hand I can't go with-out your

*mf* *p* *f*

lone act dark - ness looms may I hold your hand I can't go with-out your

*f*

Hymn for Strength, p. 3

16

*rit.*

*a tempo*

Musical score for measures 16-19. The score is written for four staves: two vocal staves (Soprano and Alto) and two piano staves (Right and Left Hand).  
Measures 16-17: The vocal staves contain whole rests. The piano accompaniment features a melodic line in the right hand and a bass line in the left hand, both marked with a piano (*p*) dynamic. The word "love" is written below the vocal staves.  
Measure 18: The tempo changes to *rit.* (ritardando). The piano accompaniment continues with the same melodic and bass lines.  
Measure 19: The tempo returns to *a tempo*. The piano accompaniment concludes with a final chord in the right hand and a whole note in the left hand.

20

*rit.*

*a tempo*

*rit.*

Musical score for measures 20-23. The score is written for four staves: two vocal staves (Soprano and Alto) and two piano staves (Right and Left Hand).  
Measures 20-21: The vocal staves contain whole rests. The piano accompaniment features a melodic line in the right hand and a bass line in the left hand, both marked with a piano (*p*) dynamic. The word "love" is written below the vocal staves.  
Measure 22: The tempo changes to *rit.* (ritardando). The piano accompaniment continues with the same melodic and bass lines.  
Measure 23: The tempo returns to *a tempo*. The piano accompaniment concludes with a final chord in the right hand and a whole note in the left hand.

Hymn for Strength, p. 4

*molto* *a tempo* *p* *mf* *p*

24  
Walls built on land, they cov-er brid - ges Your  
Walls built on land, they cov-er brid - ges Your  
Your  
Your

*molto* *a tempo* *p* *f* *p* *pp*

28 *f* *f* *f* *f* *(mp)* *(f)* *(mp)* *(f)* *(f)*

break-through is my break-through I can't go with-out your love  
break-through is my break-through I can't go with - out your love  
break-through is my break-through I can't go with-out your love  
break-through is my break-through I can't go with - out your love

Hymn for Strength, p. 5

32 *rit.* *p* *a tempo* *rit.*

My in - ter - nal  
My in - ter - nal

*rit.* *a tempo* *rit.*

36 *a tempo* *move forward* *mf* *pp* *a tempo* *rit.* *f* *a tempo*

pow - er is not just for me My pow - er it pow - ers the sick I can't  
pow - er is not just for me My pow - er it pow - ers the sick I can't  
My pow - er it pow - ers the sick I can't  
My pow - er it pow - ers the sick I can't

*a tempo* *move forward* *a tempo* *rit.* *a tempo*

Hymn for Strength, p. 6

40

go with-out your love

go with - out your love

go with-out your love

go with - out your love

rit.

44

Take time

*pp*

*pp*

*pp*

*pp*

*p*

*p*

My pow-er it pow-ers the

My pow-er it pow-ers the

Take time

*p (mp)*

*mf*

*pp*

*(pp)*

*a tempo*

*a tempo*

Hymn for Strength, p. 7

48

*p* *rit.* *f* *a tempo*

My bro - ther My sis - ter For Un - i - ty I can't go with - out your

My bro - ther My sis - ter For Un - i - ty I can't go with - out your

*mf* *p* *f*

8 care - giv - ers My sis - ter For Un - i - ty I can't go with - out your

*mf* *p* *f*

care - giv - ers My sis - ter For Un - i - ty I can't go with - out your

52

*rit.* *a tempo* *p*

love.

love.

love.

love.

*(mp)* *(f)* *rit.* *a tempo* *p*

*(mp)* *(f)* *p*

*(f)*



Hymn for Strength, p. 8

56

*rit.* *a tempo* *rit.*

*f* *p*

60

*molto*

*molto*

*p* *f* *p* *pp*