

When I survey the wondrous cross

Tune - Rockingham

Lyrics: Isaac Watts (1674-1748)

Tune: adapted by Edward Miller (1731-1807)
arranged by Kim Tame

Isaac Watts was a non-conformist preacher and theologian; he had a particular interest in re-interpreting the Psalms using Christian language. He wrote a great many hymns, poems and religious works.



His poem "Against idleness and mischief" was parodied by Lewis Carroll as "How doth the little crocodile."

Charles Wesley is reported to have said he would give up all his hymns to have written "When I survey", the definitive Good Friday hymn for many.



Edward Miller played the flute and piano, and was a music teacher as well as composer of sacred and secular works. He adapted the tune Rockingham, original composer unknown, as a hymn tune.

Version: Lead sheet; treble with chords and lyrics.

Arranged by: Kim Tame

Difficulty: Easy

Pages (including cover): 2

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The musical score is written in treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a 3/4 time signature. It consists of three staves of music. Above the first staff are the chords D, A7, D, G, and D. Above the second staff are the chords G, A7, D, A7, A, E7, and A. Above the third staff are the chords D, E7, A, D, Em, D, Em, G, D, A7, and D. The melody is simple and consists of quarter and eighth notes.

When I survey the wondrous cross
On which the Prince of Glory died;
My richest gain I count but loss
And pour contempt on all my pride.

Forbid it, Lord, that I should boast
Save in the death of Christ, my God.
All the vain things that charm me most
I sacrifice them to his blood.

See, from his head, his hands, his feet,
Sorrow and love flow mingled down.
Did e'er such love and sorrow meet,
Or thorns compose so rich a crown?

Were the whole realm of nature mine,
That were an offering far too small;
Love so amazing, so divine,
Demands my soul, my life, my all.