A Note About This Hymn and Arrangement

The words and music for "What Wondrous Love Is This" were first printed together in William (Singing Billy) Walker's 1840 edition of *Southern Harmony*. Other southern-style hymn collections soon began to include it, but not until the 1960s did "Wondrous Love" come into broad usage in main denominational hymnals.

There have been various hymnal settings of this dorian melody. Dorian means that its notes are based on a musical scale beginning on the solfeg syllable re, and if played on a keyboard would include the white keys from D to D. Like major and minor, a dorian scale can begin on any of the twelve letter names, but its unique character is determined by the half step which occurs between the sixth and seventh scale degrees—in solfeg that is la to ti. I believe the dorian scale gives this melody its haunting mood, fitting for the mystical quality of the text.

In this arrangement, we begin by singing from shape notes the first two phrases of William Walker's three-part setting (plus an alto part I added). Many southern-style singings begin hymns with a verse of shape notes to this very day. I suggest that they be sung with robust 19th century vigor. Check out a recording of a singing, and my meaning will be clear.

—David Seitz Mishawaka, Indiana October, 2020

What Wondrous Love Is This

for SATB voices divisi unaccompanied

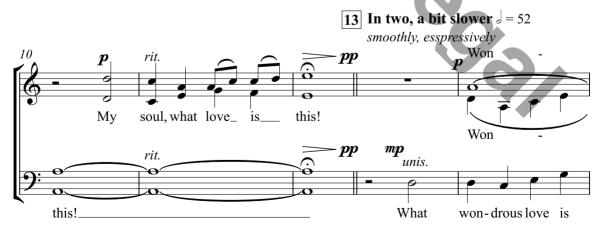
American Folk Hymn

Tune: WONDROUS LOVE arr. David A. Seitz

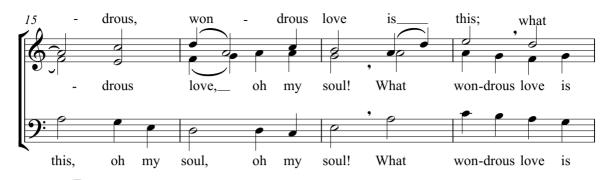
In a slow two = 56 with robust 19th century American vigor



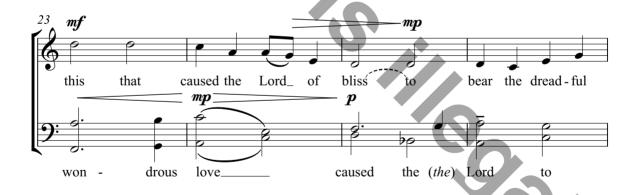


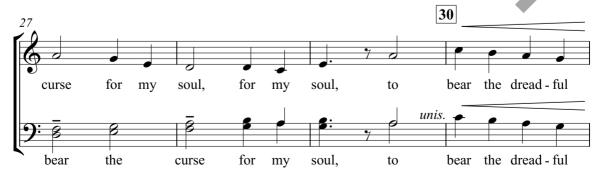


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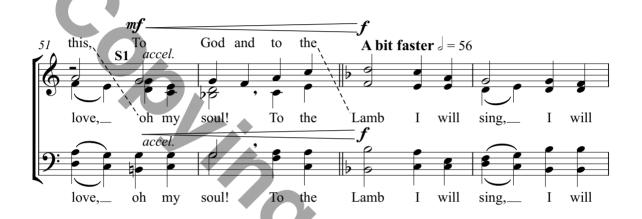


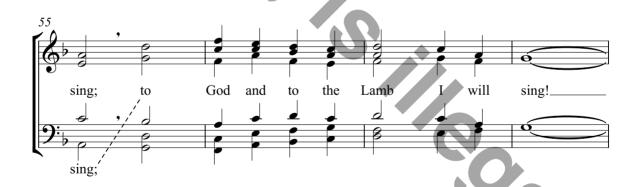


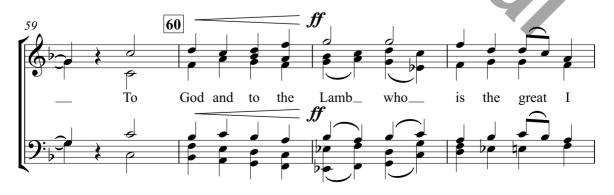
Camerata Press No. 214 What Wondrous Love













arr. 2020