

An Annotated Bibliography For Studying Hymnody And Worship (revised 11-2009) by Rev. Kevin Twit

Some Helpful Books For Leading Worship

- **Marva Dawn** “**Reaching Out Without Dumbing Down**” and “**A Royal Waste Of Time**” She is excellent and a good place to start. “Reaching Out” is the one to start with, “Royal Waste” is her further thoughts and reflections from interacting with people over the ideas in her first book. You may think she is advocating traditional worship, but she tries to correct this misunderstanding in her second book. Still, I would critique her rather uncritical acceptance and adoption of Ken Myer’s “high art / low art” distinction in her chapter on music in “Reaching Out.”
- **John Frame** “**Worship in Spirit and Truth**” and “**Contemporary Christian Music: A Biblical Defense**” The first book is a good overview, in the second book he responds (very convincingly I think) to many of the typical arguments against praise choruses. My main criticism of the second book is that many of the songs he holds up as good choruses are really kind of trite. He is a theologian and has a classical background and so he is not as familiar with what is excellent (musically) in the more popular musical genres. Still, very worthwhile reading.
- **David Montgomery** “**Sing A New Song**” (pub. by Rutherford House in Scotland) If you can track this one down it is a very helpful book. He does a good job responding to elitist arguments and advocates singing hymns set to new music. He also critiques shallow praise choruses. But some of his examples are English ones that you may not relate to. Overall, very helpful, especially for a short little book.
- **Hughes Oliphant Old** “**Worship**” and “**Themes And Variations For A Christian Doxology**” Dr. Old is the leading scholar of reformed worship. He will help you appreciate the richness of the tradition. His dissertation, published as “The Patristic Roots Of Reformed Worship” (back in print now) proves that the reformers were really trying to go back to early church worship.
- **Terry Johnson (ed.)** “**Leading In Worship**” This is an excellent resource that gathers gold from the best reformed liturgies and puts them all in one book! Great corporate prayers and wisdom on the order of a service too. He is very High-Church in his perspective, and I disagree with him at points, but you can learn a lot from this book.
- “**The Worship Sourcebook**” by the Calvin Institute Of Worship – full of resources for all aspects of liturgy and it includes a CD with the whole thing as a pdf so you can cut and paste! A must have.
- **Brian Wren** “**Praying Twice**” A very thoughtful book on the nature and practice of congregational song by a poet. Beware of his theology at times, but you will learn much from Wren, especially regarding the psychological aspects of how music works. He does a fine job walking the thin line between elitism and the postmodern tendency to make no aesthetic judgments at all!
- **Bryan Chapell** “**Christ-Centered Worship**” A great new book – companion to his “Christ-Centered Preaching.”
- **Bob Kauflin** “**Worship Matters**” Sage advice from a gospel-driven veteran worship leader.

Hymn History and Biography

- **Louis F. Benson.** Studies of Familiar Hymns (First and Second Series). These are 2 completely different books and are the best books on hymn backgrounds. They are available as a pdf to download for free online too!
- **Douglas Bond.** Mr. Pipes and the British Hymn Makers. Bond has 3 book written to introduce middle school and high school students to hymns and they are great!
- **Henry S. Burrage.** Baptist Hymn Writers and Their Hymns. A classic 19th century work.
- **Faith Cook.** Our Hymn Writers and Their Hymns. The best modern book for folks from the the evangelical reformed world to learn backgrounds of many of the hymn-writers we use the most.
- **George Melvyn Ella.** William Cowper: Poet of Paradise. This is out of print – but is worth tracking down if you want to learn more about Cowper.
- **John Gadsby.** Memoirs of Hymn-Writers and Compilers. This is a companion to Gadsby’s hymns and in it Gadsby shares what research he has been able to do on each hymnwriter in his hymn book. Many of these are very obscure particular Baptists who you won’t learn about from any other source. But check him against other references because sometimes he’s mistaken – for example in the hymn he attributes to Lady Huntington.
- **Sharon James.** In Trouble and in Joy. A wonderful book with the best bio of Anne Steele available and one of Francis Havergal as well!
- **Broome, J.R.** A Bruised Reed: The Life And Times Of Anne Steele The first real bio of Miss Steele and includes all of her hymns as an appendix!
- **H. Elvet Lewis.** Sweet Singers of Wales. An older work, but since there is not much on this subject it is worth knowing about. He includes lots of hymns as examples that you won’t find anywhere else.
- **Alan Luff.** Welsh Hymns and Their Tunes.
- **Presbyterian Board of Christian Education.** Handbook to the Hymnal (1936) For virtually every major denominational hymnal release, they also publish a hymn handbook which has info about every hymn and tune. They are handbooks for the Methodists, Baptist, and Lutherans and often you can find them cheap online.
- **Erik Routley.** Hymns and Human Life & Hymns and the Faith. Routley is probably the most important recent hymnologist and his works are worth having and consulting.
- **Jon Michael Spencer.** Black Hymnody. There is not much reading on this topic and this is a standard resource.

Analysis of Hymns

- **Louis F. Benson. The English Hymn: Its Development and Use in Worship.** This is the definitive work to read if you want an exhaustive understanding of English hymns and the history of hymn singing. His approach is to trace the history of every official sanctioned hymnbook by every English speaking denomination. A benefit of this approach for bibliophiles like me is that I can look up every old hymnbook I find on ebay and learn about to see if I should buy it! It usually sells for \$50 in the used bookstores but is well worth it!
- **Louis F. Benson. The Hymnody of the Christian Church.** A smaller work which are the Stone Lectures he gave at Princeton. He covers topics not covered in the English Hymn work.
- **Edith L. Blumhofer and Mark A. Noll, ed. Singing the Lord's Song in a Strange Land.** A few years ago there was a conference at Wheaton where church historians gathered to discuss how hymns can help us with church history and vice versa. Several books have now been published of papers from this conference and they are all excellent!
- **Edith L. Blumhofer and Mark A. Noll, ed. Sing Them Over Again to Me.**
- **Richard J. Mouw and Mark A. Noll, ed. Wonderful Words of Life.**
- **Ian Bradley. Abide With Me: The World of Victorian Hymns.**
- **Harry Eskew and Hugh T. McElrath. Singing with Understanding.**
- **Henry Wilder Foote. Three Centuries of American Hymnody.** This is out of print too, but it is a great historical overview of hymnody in America. You will learn tons from this book! But beware, he is sympathetic to Unitarianism.
- **Gracia Grindal. Lessons in Hymnwriting.**
- **John Julian. A Dictionary of Hymnology (2 volumes).** The standard reference work, but it would cost you \$100 if you can find it on the Internet used somewhere.
- **Stephen A. Marini. Sacred Song in America: Religion, Music, and Public Culture.**
- **Mark A. Noll and Ronald F. Thiemann. Where Shall My Wond'ring Soul Begin?**
- **E.E. Ryden. The Story of Christian Hymnody.** I love this book! It makes the history such a fun story to read. And he includes much about German hymnody that you will find glossed over in other books. It's out of print but track it down!
- **Hughes Oliphant Old. Leading in Prayer: A Workbook for Worship.**
- **J.R. Watson. The English Hymn: A Critical and Historical Study.** Watson's book is unique because he looks at hymns as a literary critic and expounds on the art of each hymn-writer and how their styles differ from each other.
- **Catherine Winkworth. Christian Singers of Germany.** This is the volume in which Winkworth tells the stories of the hymns and writers she translated. Good news is that it is available online for free at www.hymnary.org

History of Music and Worship

- **James Abbington. Let Mt. Zion Rejoice! Music in the African American Church.**
- **James Abbington, ed. Readings in African American Church Music and Worship.** Jimmy Abbington teaches at Emory and is the leading scholar of black church worship today. This book is a collection of hard-to-find articles and privately published papers that are vital for understanding the worship of the black church.
- **Friedrich Blume. Protestant Church Music: A History.**
- **J.G. Davies. The New Westminster Dictionary of Liturgy and Worship.**
- **Marva J. Dawn. A Royal "Waste" of Time.**
- **Reggie M. Kidd. With One Voice.** A great recent book on music by Reggie who teaches at RTS Orlando.
- **James McKinnon. Music in Early Christian Literature.**
- **Calvin R. Stapert. A New Song for an Old World.** About early church attitudes toward music.
- **Geoffrey Wainwright and Karen B. Westerfield Tucker, ed. The Oxford History of Christian Worship.**
- **Robert E. Webber, ed. Music and the Arts in Christian Worship.**
- **Henry Willett, ed. In the Spirit: Alabama's Sacred Music Traditions.**
- **John D. Witvliet. Worship Seeking Understanding.** John directs the Calvin Institute of Worship and this collection of his essays is profound – a must buy!

Hymnals and Sources of Hymn Texts *Look on google book search for free pdfs of so many of these great old books!*

- **Frances Bevan, translator. Hymns of Ter Steegen and Others (First and Second Series).**
- **Horatius Bonar. Hymns of Faith and Hope (First, Second, and Third Series).** These are 3 different books!
- **R.H. Boyd, ed. The National Baptist Hymn Book.** An important black church resource.
- **Charlotte Elliott. Selections from the Poems.**
- **William Gadsby. Gadsby's Hymns.** This has been reprinted recently too. It is reformed Baptist and includes 1200 hymns (without music) and can be obtained (as can Nettleton's hymnal) from www.heritagebooks.org
- **Gospel Hymns: Nos. 1 to 6 Complete.** The source for gospel songs good and bad.
- **Frances Ridley Havergal. The Poetical Works of Frances Ridley Havergal.**
- **William Walsham How. Poems.**
- **H.F. Lyte. The Poetical Works of the Rev. H.F. Lyte.**
- **Moravian Church. Hymnal and Liturgies of the Moravian Church (Unitas Fratrum).**
- **The Trinity Hymnal and The Trinity Psalter.** A good hymnal is invaluable. The Psalter puts all 150 Psalms in verse form and suggests tunes so that you can sing the Psalms in worship!

- **J.M. Neale, translator. Hymns of the Eastern Church.**
- **Asahel Nettleton, ed. Village Hymns for Social Worship.** This is a great 19th century reformed hymnal that has been reprinted recently. Nettleton was a famous reformed revival preacher (you should read his “Life and Labors” someday!)
- **John Newton. The Works of John Newton: Volume 3.**
- **Praise! Psalms, Hymns, and Songs for Christian Worship.**
- **John Rippon’s Collection.** An important early English Baptist collection.
- **J.C. Ryle. Hymns for the Church on Earth.**
- **The Sacred Harp.**
- **Philip Schaff, compiler. Christ in Song: Hymns of Immanuel From All Ages.** You must buy this. Period.
- **Songs of Zion.** A modern resource of songs from the black church.
- **C.H. Spurgeon, compiler. Our Own Hymn-Book.**
- **Anne Steele. Hymns by Anne Steele.** A small paperback you can sometimes find used online.
- **Anne Steele. The Works of Anne Steele.** This contains her hymns, other poems, and psalms, as well as some letters and prose pieces. (But the only copy for sale online is \$250)
- **Charles Albert Tindley. Beams of Heaven: Hymns of Charles Albert Tindley.**
- **Augustus Toplady. The Complete Works of Augustus Toplady.**
- **William Walker, ed. The Southern Harmony and Musical Companion.**
- **Isaac Watts. The Psalms and Hymns of Isaac Watts.**
- **Charles Wesley. Sacred Poetry www.kessinger.net is where you can buy this reprint from the 19th century.**
- **John Wesley. The Works of John Wesley, Volume 7: A Collection of Hymns.** The scholarly, critical, annotated edition of the Methodist hymnal is a great resource and filled with great essays as well.

Some Resources Of Interest To The Hymn Movement Compiled by Rev. Kevin Twit (2006)

- **Indelible Grace has 6 cds of old hymn texts set to new music.** They also produce the RUF Hymnbook which is available online at www.igracemusic.com
- **Red Mountain Church** (in Birmingham) have great hymn cds at www.redmountainchurch.org/rmm/
- **Jars of Clay’s hymn cd "Redemption Songs"** www.jarsofclay.com This CD was nominated for a Grammy! The March 2005 CCM magazine featured Amy Grant and Jars on the cover and focused on the many new hymn cds coming out. Ashley Cleveland released a good hymn cd in 2005 too.
- **Christopher Miner** has 3 hymn cds. They are available at www.christopherminer.com Chris wrote the bulk of RUF standards. His cds are very mellow (not to everyone’s taste but I love them!) and a great resource for new hymn rewrites.
- **Several RUF groups have produced hymn cds.** www.ruf.org has a link to all the RUF cds.
- **Chip Stam at Southern Seminary in Louisville is doing great work.** He runs the Worship Institute there, and has lots of great lectures online for free downloading and has a wonderful weekly worship quote by email. <http://www.sbts.edu/icw/index.php>
- **Dan Landes.** Dan is the hymn prof at Belmont and Vandy and has a great website (with a very good collection of links regarding hymnody at <http://www.smithcreekmusic.com/Hymnology/index.html>)
- **Interested in jazz and worship?** – check out www.presbybop.com and www.sanctuaryjazz.com
- **The Hymn Society** <http://www.thehymnsociety.org/>
- **Keith Getty’s new hymns** – check out www.gettymusic.com
- **Sovereign Grace Ministries (formerly PDI)** Substantive modern choruses and redone hymns as well
- **Greenlake Presbyterian (PCA) in Seattle** <http://www.greenlakepc.org/> – includes music and their liturgies
- **Liturgy Fellowship** <http://www.liturgyfellowship.org/> a fellowship of liturgical composers sponsored by the Greenlake folks.
- **More links at the Indelible Grace website on the RUF Hymnbook home page.** <http://igracemusic.com/igracemusic/hymnbook/links.html> Lots of good links!
- **Sandra McCracken (part of the Indelible Grace community) released a solo hymn cd “The Builder And The Architect” in November 2005.** Available at www.sandramccracken.com
- **Kingsborough Hymns Vol 1** – produced by Park Slope Presbyterian Church in NYC. One of my favorite hymn cds hands down. Available at <http://www.cdbaby.com/cd/parkslope>
- **Jill Phillips cd “Kingdom Come”** contains some excellent hymns as well as liturgical pieces in a rich modern folk style. www.jillphillips.com