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With so many funeral hymns available, where do you start?.Having sung at over 200 Anglican funerals weve first hand experience of the variety of hymns people choose for the funeral of a loved one. So often the family are divided as we all have our favourites, or just dont know which to choose, so heres a little help.Looking back on what weve sung in the last few years, here are top 10 most popular CoFe hymns.Written by: John Greenleaf Whittier (18071892) American Quaker poet, from his longer poem The brewing of Soma.Music tune: Repton by Sir Hubert Parry (1848-1918) in 1916.It has a wonderful melody, the tune was originally written by Parry as an aria in his oratorio Judith. The hymn has become a favourite for assemblies, funerals and weddings.Famous uses:Used in the film AtonementWritten by: Henry Francis Lyte (17931847) Anglican minister, based on Psalm 103Music tune: Lauda Anima by John Goss (1800 1880) English organist and composer.The hymns themes cover such as the Love of God, healing and forgiveness and has been praised as one of the finest hymn tunes from the Victorian period and remains much a favourite of congregations.Famous uses:Sung at many royal weddings including Queen ElizabethIIsSung at funeral of President G W BushUsed in the film PorridgeWritten by: Eleanor Farjeon (1881-1965) English author of childrens stories and plays, poetry, biography, history and satire.Music tune: Bunesan a Scottish folk melody.A simple hymn written initially for children to give thanks for each day. The hymn was brought to public attention by pop/folk musician Cat Stevens when he released a version in 1971.Stevens explained on The Chris Isaak Hour: I accidentally fell upon the song when I was going through a slightly dry period and I needed another song or two for Teaser And The Firecat. I came across this hymn book, found this one song, and thought, This is good. I put the chords to it and then it started becoming associated with me.Written by: Carl Robert (1859-1940) Swedish poet and lay minister and based on Psalm 8. Translated to German and then to Russian, finally translated to English from the Russian by Stuart K Hine.Music tune: an old Swedish folk tune.The hymn was popularised by George Beverly Shea and Cliff Barrows during the Billy Graham crusades.Famous recordings:Elvis PresleyThere have been over seventeen hundred documented recordings of How Great Thou ArtWritten by: George Bennard (18731958) American hymn composer and preacher.Music tune: by George BennardLoved for its lilting melody and words of personal truth in the cross of Christ, The Old Rugged Cross remains one of the most cherished hymns of the Christian faith. It has since been included in numerous hymnals and recordings by contemporary artists.Famous uses:Performed by many 20th century performing artists:Johnny CashElla FitzgeraldMahalia JacksonLoretta LynWillie NelsonEpisodes of Dr WhoIn the film Pennies from HeavenWritten by: John Newton (1725-1807) former slave ship captain and clergyman John Newton wrote the famous hymn in 1772, for his 1793 New Years Day service.Music tune: New Britain by William Walker (1809 1875) an American composer, this has become the most popular and accepted tune for the hymn.Its the simple yet powerful message of forgiveness and mercy from God, that has made Amazing Grace one of the most versatile and enduring hymns in the world. The hymn was rated as One of the best hymns of all time by Classical Music.Famous uses:The anthem of the civil rights movement across the USA and moreAretha Franklin recorded on her best-selling gospel albumA Broadway musical has been written about the hymn in 2015Written by: commonly attributed to the English Puritan Francis Rous (1581 1659), based on Psalm 23 and published in the Scottish Psalter of 1650.Music tune: Crimond by Jessie Seymour Irvine(1836-1887), daughter of Church of Scotland minister.The tune is easy to follow if you dont already know it, and sits well during the service.Famous uses:The wedding of Queen Elizabeth II and Prince PhilipWritten by: Cecil Frances Alexander (18181895) Anglo-Irish hymn writer and first published in 1848 in Mrs Cecil Alexanders Hymns for Little Children.Music tune: by William Henry Monk (1823 1889) English organist written in 1887.The tune is familiar to many as it was often sung during school assembly in the 20th century.Famous uses:The writer James Herriot Cused lines from the hymn as titles for his series of veterinary story collectionsEpisodes of Vernalin the film The Land GirlsIn the film Brassed OffWritten by: Henry Francis Lyte (17931847) Anglican minister. The opening lines are referenced to Luke 24:29Music tune: Eventide by William Henry Monk (1823 1889) English organist written in 1861.The hymn is a prayer for God to remain present with the speaker throughout life, through trials, and through death. The original poem had 8 verses. However, the hymn now is normally sung in 3 or 4 verses, and is very popular across many Christian denominations.Famous uses:At Remembrance Day servicesAt the FA Cup FinalAt the opening ceremony of The 2012 Summer Olympics in LondonEpisodes of Dr WhoIn the film Steel Magnoliasin the film Oliver TwistWritten by: William Blake (1757-1827) in 1804 and published 1808. The poem featured in the preface to his epic Milton-a Poem.Music tune: by Sir Hubert Parry (1848-1918) in 1916.Jerusealms popularity is largely due to the wonderful tune by Parry. Known as a good sing, its a rousing, uplifting hymn that carries the singers along. As the hymn has been very popular since 1917 it is embedded in the psyche of many. Even if you have not sung it before, its surprising how much you know once you begin to sing it!Famous uses:National Union of Womens Suffrage Societies adopted it as the Women Voters HymnAt the end of The Last Night of the Proms at the Royal Albert HallAt the end of the Labour Party ConferenceAt the wedding of Prince William and Catherine MiddletonAt the opening ceremony of The 2012 Summer Olympics in London Page 2Page 3Page 4Page 5Page 6Page 7 (No tune information) The Songs of Praise Big Sing Michael Ball and Russell Watson perform at The Royal Albert Hall. What are the most popular hymns in the UK? In 2013 Songs of Praise conducted a nationwide survey. Tens of thousands of people voted for their favourite. From a list of one hundred hymns, here is the order in which they rank. 1. How Great Thou Art 2. In Christ Alone 3. Be Still, My Soul 4. Dear Lord And Father of Mankind 5. Here I Am, Lord (I, The Lord Of Sea And Sky) 6. And Can It Be 7. Abide With Me 8. Guide Me, O Thou Great Redeemer/Jehova 9. Make Me A Channel Of Thy Peace 10. The Day Thou Gavest, Lord, Is Ended 11. Jerusalem 12. Great Is Thy Faithfulness 13. Shine Jesus Shine (Lord, The Light Of Your Love Is Shining) 14. Love Divine, All Love Excelling 15. Be Thou My Vision 16. Amazing Grace 17. I Vow To Thee My Country 18. When I Survey the Wondrous Cross 19. What A Friend We Have In Jesus 20. Thine Be The Glory 21. To God Be The Glory 22. Praise, My Soul, The King Of Heaven 23. Be Still, My Soul 24. How Deep The Fathers Love For Us 25. Will Your Anchor Hold In The Storms Of Life 26. Psalm 23 (by Stuart Townend) 27. O Love That Wilt Not Let Me Go 28. Lord, For The Years 29. Lord Of All Hopefulness 30. The Servant King 31. O Jesus, I Have Promised 32. Blessed Assurance 33. All Things Bright And Beautiful 34. The Lord's My Shepherd, I'll Not Want 35. King Of Kings, Majesty 36. Just As I Am 37. Beauty For Brokenness 38. Lord Of The Dance 39. There Is A Redeemer 40. My Song Is Love Unknown 41. My Jesus, My Saviour 42. Eternal Father, Strong To Save 43. Here I Am To Worship (Light Of The World) 44. Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise 45. Angel-Voices Ever Singing 46. How Great Is Our God 47. Before The Throne Of God 48. Here Is Love, Vast As The Ocean 49. Morning Has Broken 50. The King Of Love My Shepherd Is In Heavenly Love Abiding 51. At The Name Of Jesus Tell Out My Soul Nearer My God To Thee Lord, Jesus Christ (Living Lord) Give Me Joy In My Heart 52. Brother, Let Me Be Your Servant 53. Ill Go In The Strength Of The Lord 54. Soul Of My Saviour 55. Christ Triumphant, Ever Reigning 56. For All The Saints All People That On Earth Do Dwell 57. O Happy Day 58. The Churchs One Foundation 59. He Who Would Valiant Be I Cannot Tell 60. O For A Thousand Tongues To Sing 61. How Shall I Sing That Majesty Crown Him With Many Crowns 62. Take My Life Lead Kindly Light 63. Mine Eyes have Seen The Glory 64. I Will Sing The Wondrous Story 65. Now Thank We All Our God 66. Theres A Wideness In Gods Mercy 67. Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God Almighty 68. Come Down, O Love Divine 69. Who Would True Valour See All Creatures Of Our God And King 70. Father, Hear The Prayer We Offer 71. All My Hope On God Is Founded 72. Lead Us, Heavenly Father 73. Christ Be Our Light 74. For The Beauty Of The Earth 75. Christ Is Made The Sure Foundation Hall, Redeemer, King Divine 76. Thy Hand, O God, Has Guided 77. Since Jesus Came Into My Heart 78. We Cannot Measure How You Heal 79. Praise To The Lord, The Almighty 80. Ye Servants Of God 81. O God, Our Help In Ages Past 82. Praise To The Holiest In The Height 83. O Worship The King All Glorious above 84. Like A Mighty River Flowing Let All The World In Every Corner Sing 85. Lord, Enthroned In Heavenly Splendour 86. Sing Of The Lords Goodness 87. O When The Saints 88. God Is Love, Let Heaven Adore Him The top ten hymns featured in a special edition of the Songs of Praise Big Sing that was broadcast on Sunday 27th October 2013. 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