

**Editorial note:** Olaf C. Christiansen was the second conductor of the St. Olaf Choir, a position he held from 1941–1968. Like his father, St. Olaf Choir founder F. Melius Christiansen, Olaf wrote extensively for the college ensembles, including arrangements of hymns such as “Lift Up Your Heads.”

This processional anthem was originally written for a St. Olaf Christmas Festival and remains a treasured work in the Christiansen repertoire, as Olaf included it in his final concert tour with the St. Olaf Choir in 1968. His focus with the ensemble was always rhythmic and tonal precision so that nothing would distract from the message of the text. In “Lift Up Your Heads,” choirs should strive to sing with energy and vitality, allowing words such as “Fling” to spring from the page and propel the music forward.

We are grateful for the chance to include this edition in the St. Olaf Choral Series as a way to introduce new singers to the spirit and creativity of Olaf C. Christiansen’s compositional craft.

This anthem is recorded by the St. Olaf Choir on the CD *Great Hymns of Faith, Vol. 2*, available from St. Olaf Records.

# Lift Up Your Heads

for SATB voices, a cappella

George Weissel, 1590–1635  
tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1829–1878, alt.

TRURO  
T. Williams, *Psalmodia Evangelica*, 1789  
arr. Olaf C. Christiansen, 1901–1984

Soprano  
Alto

*f*

Lift up your heads, ye mighty gates; be -

5 hold, the King of glo - ry waits! The

9 King of kings is draw - ing near; the

13 Sav - ior of the world is here.

17 Tenor *mf*  
Bass Oh, blest the land, the cit - y blest, where

21 Christ the rul - er is con - fessed! Oh,

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1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9

25

hap - py hearts and hap - py homes to

29

whom this King in triumph comes!

33

Soprano *mf*

Alto

Tenor *mf*

Bass

Fling wide the portals of your heart; make

37

it a temple set apart from

41

earth - ly use for heav'n's employ, a -

53

hearts to thee we open wide. Let

hearts to thee we open wide. Let

hearts to thee we open wide. Let

hearts to thee we open wide. Let

57

us thy in - ner pre - sence feel, thy

us thy in - ner pre - sence feel, thy

us thy in - ner pre - sence feel, thy

us thy in - ner pre - sence feel, thy

61

grace and love in us re - veal. O

grace and love in us re - veal. O

grace and love in us re - veal. O

grace and love in us re - veal. O

65

King of glory, come!

King of glo - ry, come!

King of glo - ry, come!

King of glo - ry, come!