The PSALMS

Instrumental accompaniment for unison congregational singing of the 150 Psalms on Genevan Tunes from the Book of Praise - Anglo-Genevan Psalter of the Canadian Reformed Churches

2nd EDITION

DENNIS TEITSMA
These harmonizations of the 150 Psalms are available in PDF format as a free download from www.bookofpraise.ca

Professionally printed copies of a spiral-bound book including all 150 Psalms and 85 Hymns with laminated covers are available for the cost of printing ($12) plus shipping.

Note that shipping charges vary by location. Sending multiple copies to one address significantly reduces the shipping cost per book.

Copyright © Dennis Teitsma  2015
2nd edition

Any part of this collection may be reproduced in any manner without permission, providing its source is properly acknowledged.

82 Cedargrove Crescent
Winnipeg, Manitoba
Canada, R2C 4Y7
Telephone: 204-222-5005
Email: via jteitsma@gmail.com
PREFACE

Instrumental music is not required in reformed worship services and neither are animal offerings. The Bible clearly shows that God requires our heart-felt offerings in our worship services, that is the fruit of lips (Heb 13:15; Hosea 14:1,2; Psalm 19:14; etc.). Such offerings are brought with the God given instrument, namely the human voice-box (see appendix for an article on “Music in Reformed Liturgy”). Congregational singing in reformed liturgy is the orderly reaction of believers presenting song-offerings that were born by the Spirit, welling up from the heart and responding to the redemptive acts of God (S. Greydanus, Korte Verklaring).

Singing in Unison

During the Great Reformation, John Calvin in Geneva acknowledged that versification of Bible songs would best enable all believers to actively participate in the public worship services. Under his guidance and encouragement the divinely inspired songs in the Book of Psalms as well as other Bible songs were versified. One melody for multiple verses of each song were composed during the mid 1500's to reflect the content and character of each entire song. These melodies enabled all believers to join-in and make the orderly song-offerings possible during the worship services. Their unique, flowing melodies for congregational singing in unison, require no musical training. Moreover they encourage and stimulate believers to participate in this responsive nature of the reformed public worship services.

Tunes

The melodies are characterized not only by their suitability for congregational use. They are written in nine of the age-old twelve 'church modes' that had developed in the Western world since the fifth century. These gave birth to the two popular keys of today, the major and minor. Overall, these modes generally show an absence of tension that is so prevalent in major and minor keys. Moreover, the Genevan tunes use only two note values as well as one note for each syllable (half and quarter notes). The melodies never start on an upbeat, but always with one or more long notes (half notes). They never show intervals greater than a fifth except for an occasional octave interval between sentences. For more information on 'modes' please refer to my paper on Tunes of the Anglo- Genevan Psalter 2005, ISBN 0-9737275-1–9, or the Notes in my The Hymns 1990 and Organ Offertories 1990 (Inheritance Publications, Neerlandia, AB T0G 1R0).

The tunes also reflect the free-flowing rhythm of the Hebrew language of these poetic songs. Their musical style appears timeless as well as linked to the early christian churches and likely even to the music used in the synagogues of earlier times [Fulfil Your Ministry, Dr.K.Deddens, Premier Publ. p.105; for more detailed information see also my booklet, Genevan Tunes, an updated version (2013) of the first part of my paper under the title “Tunes of the Anglo-Genevan Psalter” (2005)].
Tempo and Rhythm

The melodies are not metrical (no bars), but rhythmic. They have a natural, flowing pulse rhythm with the beat on the longer of the two note values. In summary, the tunes are simple but not simplistic, unique but not difficult, easy but not repetitive, comforting but not boring, mood reflective but not sentimental, uplifting but not frenzied, rhythmic but not metric.

Chorales are usually composed for four-voice choirs, but this keyboard collection of the 150 Psalms is particularly written to accompany congregational singing in unison. The harmonies are simple and easy to play. The distance between voices is kept to less than an octave. The base line represents the ongoing beat or pulse which is between 40-70 per minute depending on the content of the song, the culture and the customs of the congregation.

The proclamation of God's Word on the sabbath redirects our lives to observe God's day, to rest from our evil works and so to make a beginning of the eternal sabbath. The responsive singing is not only the required offering, but it also helps to slow down the believers' average heart beat, which is between 60 and 70 beats per minute for a person at rest. 'Concertizing' these melodies, and their use in the past with only long notes, has possibly contributed to feeling the beat on every syllable instead of on the long notes only.

Instrumental accompaniment

The sole purpose of instrumental music in a reformed worship service is to serve the peoples' offering of the 'fruit of lips'. Short preludes are added to properly identify the song, its rhythm and its pitch. These ensure that every member of the congregation starts at the same time, especially when a rest, equal to a full-pulse-beat, is observed. This allows everyone to inhale before starting. Short postludes allow a musical closure. Any other music was added to simply fill a page.

Repeated notes in the melodies are never to be tied. Other repeated notes may be tied at the player's discretion. This depends on the song, the tempo and the need of the congregation. Therefore, ties are not shown in chorales. On a large keyboard instrument, of course, the melody can be played with a solo voice and the bass-line on a clear, strong pedal. Tying melody notes displays a lack of respect and sloppiness.

This collection would not have been possible without the computer know-how of my son James. I owe him my thanks for allowing me, a computer-illiterate eighty-two year old, to be productive, for he set up the program and helped me out. Whenever I was at my wit's end, he managed to get me back on track.

The purpose of making these harmonizations available is to encourage the unison singing of the Genevan tunes. These accompaniments may appear simple, but when they promote and improve the intended rhythm, pulse and tempo of these long-lasting melodies for congregational singing, their goal has been reached. When congregations catch on to the correct rhythm and speed, with the pulsating beat on the long notes, the unison singing will also feel more flowing, lighter, quicker and more natural.
Psalm 3

Prelude

Chorale 6,6,7 - 6,6,7 - 6,6,7 - 6,6,7 Ionian

Postlude

Dennis Teitsma 2015
Psalm 4

Prelude

Transposition to f sharp

Chorale 9.8 - 9.9.8 - 9.8 - 9.9.8

Aeolian

Postlude

D.T. 2015
Psalm 7

Prelude

Chorale 9,9, 8,8 - 9,9, 8,8

Hypodorian

Postlude 1

Postlude 2

D.T. 2015
Psalm 9

Prelude

Chorale 8,8,9,9

Dorian

Postlude 1

Postlude 2

Dennis Teitsma 2015
Psalm 10

Prelude

Chorale 10,10 - 10,10, - 10,11,11

Dorian

Postlude 1

Postlude 2

Dennis Teitsma 2015
Psalm 11

Prelude

Chorale 11,10,11 - 10,11 - 10,11

Dorian

Postlude
Psalm 13

Prelude

Chorale 8,8,9 - 9,8

Dorian

Postlude 1

Postlude 2

Dennis Teitsma 2015
Psalm 17  (63, 70)

Prelude

Chorale 8,9,8 - 9,8,8,9

Phrygian

end stanza 6

Postlude

Dennis Teitsma 2015
Psalm 18

Prelude

Chorale 11,11 - 10,10 - 11,11 - 10,10

Hypo aeolian

Postlude

Dennis Teitsma 2015
Psalm 20

Prelude

Chorale 9,6 - 9,6 - 9,7 - 9,7

Postlude 1

Postlude 2

Dennis Teitsma 2015
Psalm 21

Prelude

Chorale 8,7 - 8,6,6

Ionian

Postlude

Canonic Prelude

slow

D.T. 2015
Psalm 24 (62,98,111)

Prelude

Chorale 8,8,9 - 8,8,9

Postlude

Dennis Teitsma 2015
Psalm 25

Prelude

Chorale 8,7,8,7 - 7,8,7,8

Hypo ionian

Postlude 1

Postlude 2

D.T. 2015
Psalm 26

Prelude

Chorale 6,6,8 - 7,7,8

Phrygian

Postlude 1

Prelude or Postlude 2

D. Teitsma 2015
Psalm 27

Prelude

Chorale 11,10,11,10 - 10,10,10,10

Mixolydian

Postlude

D.T. 2015
Psalm 29

Prelude

Chorale 7,7,7,7 - 8,8,8,8

Ionian

Postlude 1

Postlude 2
Psalm 31

Prelude

Chorale 9,6,6 - 9,7,7

Phrygian

Postlude

Dennis Teitsma 2015
Psalm 32

Prelude

Chorale 11,11 - 10,10 - 11,11 - 10,10

Ionian

Postlude

D.T. 2015
Psalm 34

Prelude

Chorale 6,8,8,6 - 6,8,8,6

Dorian

Postlude

Dennis Teitsma 2015
Psalm 35

Prelude

Chorale 8,8,9 - 8,8,8,8 Hypo ionian

Postlude

D.T. 2015
Psalm 36 (68) on C

Prelude

Chorale 8,8,7 - 8,8,7 - 8,8,7 - 8,8,7

Ionian

Postlude

Transpose to D Ionian
Psalm 36  (68) on D

Prelude

Chorale 8,8,7 - 8,8,7 - 8,8,7 - 8,8,7

Ionian
Psalm 37

Prelude

Chorale 11,10,11,10,11,10

Dorian

Postlude

D. Teitsma 2015
Psalm 38

Prelude

Chorale 8,4,7-8,4,7

Postlude

Dennis Teitsma 2015
Psalm 39

Prelude

Chorale 10,8 - 10,8 - 10,8

Hypo aeolian

Postlude

D. Teitsma 2015
Psalm 42

Prelude

Chorale 8,7,8 - 7,7,8,8

Hypo ionian

Postlude

D.T. 2015
Psalm 43

Prelude

Chorale 9,8 - 9,9 - 8,6

Hypo-ionian

Postlude

D.T. 2015
Psalm 44

Prelude

Chorale 9,9,8,8 - 8,9,8,9

Hypomixolydian

Postlude

rit.

D. Teitsma 2015
Psalm 45

Prelude

Chorale 11,11,10,10 - 11,11,10,10

Dorian

Postlude

Dennis Teitsma 2015
Psalm 46  (82)

Prelude

Chorale 9,9 - 8,8 - 9,9 - 8,8

Mixolydian

Postlude

Dennis Teitsma 2015
Psalm 47

Prelude

Chorale 10,10,10 - 10,10,10

Postlude

Dennis Teitsma 2015
Psalm 49

Prelude

Chorale 10,10,10 - 10,10,11,11

Hypo-ionian

Postlude

D.T. 2015
Psalm 51 (69)

Prelude

Chorale 10,11 - 11,10 - 10, 11 - 10,11

Phrygian

Postlude

Dennis Teitsma 2015
Psalm 52

Prelude

Chorale 9,6 - 9,6 - 8,6

Postlude

Prelude 2

Dennis Teitsma 2015
Psalm 53

Prelude

Chorale 10,11 - 11,10,4

Dorian

Postlude

Variation

Postlude

Dennis Teitsma 2015
Psalm 54

Prelude

Chorale 8,9,8 - 8,9,8

Hypo-ionian

Postlude

Dennis T. 2015
Psalm 55

Prelude

Chorale 9,9 - 9,8 - 8,9  
Hypo-aolian

Postlude 1

Dennis Teitsma 2015
Psalm 56

Prelude

Chorale 10,10,10,7 - 11,11,11,6

Hypo-ionian

Postlude

Dennis Teitsma 2015
Psalm 57

Prelude

Chorale 10,10 - 11,10 - 11

Mixolydian

Postlude 1

Interlude/Postlude 2

Dennis Teitsma 2015
Psalm 58

Prelude

Chorale 9,8 - 8,9 - 8,8  
Hypomixolydian

Postlude

Dennis Teitsma 2015
Psalm 60 (108)

Prelude

Chorale 8,8,8,8 - 8,8,9,9

Hypo-ionian

Postlude

Dennis Teitsma 2015
Psalm 61

Prelude

Chorale 8,4,7 - 8,4,7 Hypodorian

Postlude

Dennis Teitsma 2015
Psalm 62

Prelude

Chorale 8,8,9 - 8,8,9

Dorian

Postlude 1

Postlude 2

Dennis Teitsma 2015
Psalm 63 (17, 70)

Prelude

Chorale 8,9,8 - 9,8,8,9

Phrygian

Postlude

Dennis Teitsma 2015
Psalm 64

Prelude

Chorale 9,8,8, - 9,5  Dorian

Postlude 1  Postlude 2
Psalm 66  (98, 118)

Prelude

Chorale 9,8 - 9,8 - 9,8 - 9,8

Hypo-ionian

Postlude

Dennis Teitsma 2015
Psalm 67

Prelude

Chorale 9,8 - 9,8 - 6,6,5 - 6,6,5

Dorian

Postlude

Dennis Teitsma 2015
Psalm 68  (36 on C or on D)

Prelude

Chorale 8,8,7 - 8,8,7 - 8,8,7 - 8,8,7  Ionian

Postlude

Dennis Teitsma 2015
Psalm 69

Prelude

Chorale 10,11 - 11,10 -- 10,11 - 10,11

Phrygian

Postlude

D.T. 2015
Psalm 70

(17, 63)

Prelude

Chorale 8,9,8 - 9,8,8,9

Phrygian

Postlude

Dennis Teitsma 2015
Psalm 71

Prelude

Chorale 9,6,6 - 9,7,7

Phrygian

Postlude

Dennis Teitsma 2015
Psalm 72

Prelude

Chorale 9.6 - 9.6, -- 9.6 - 9.6

Aeolian

Postlude

D.T. 2015
Psalm 73

Prelude

Chorale 8,8 - 9,9 -- 8,8 - 8,8

Postlude

Dennis Teitsma 2015
Psalm 74 (116)

Prelude

Chorale 10,11,11,10

Mixolydian

Postlude

Interlude/Prelude

Dennis Teitsma 2015
Psalm 76

Prelude

Chorale 8,8 - 8,8 - 9,9

Hypomixolydian

Postlude
Psalm 77

Prelude

Chorale 8,8 - 7,7 - 8,8 - 7,7

Hypodorian

Postlude

D.T. 2015
Psalm 79

Prelude

Chorale 11,11,11,11 - 6,6,7 - 6,6,7

end of stanza 5

Postlude

Hypo-ionian

D.T. 2015
Psalm 80

Prelude

Chorale 9, 9 - 8, 8 - 8, 8

Dorian

Postlude

Dennis Teitsma 2015
Psalm 82

Prelude

Chorale 9,9 - 8,8 - 9,9 - 8,8

Mixolydian

Postlude

Dennis Teitsma 2015
Psalm 83

Prelude

Chorale 8,8,9 - 9,9,9

Phrygian

Postlude

cantus firmus Dennis Teitsma 2015
Psalm 84

Prelude

Chorale 8,8,9 - 8,8,9 - 8,8

Ionian

Postlude

Dennis Teitsma 2015
Psalm 87

Prelude

Chorale 11,10 - 10,11

Hypomixolydian

Postlude

d.t. 2015
Psalm 89

Prelude

Chorale 12,12 - 13,13, - 13,13 Hypo-ionian

Postlude

D.T. 2015
Psalm 90

(78)

Prelude

Chorale 11,11 - 11, 11 - 10,10

Dorian

Postlude

Dennis Teitsma 2015
Psalm 91

Prelude

Chorale 8,8 - 8,8 -- 8,7 - 8,7

Dorian

Postlude

Dennis Teitsma 2015
Psalm 92

Prelude

Chorale 7,6 - 6,7 -- 7,6 - 6,7

Dorian

Postlude

Dennis Teitsma 2015
Psalm 94

Prelude

Chorale 9,9,8 - 8,8,8

Phrygian

Postlude

Dennis Teitsma 2015
Psalm 96

Prelude

Chorale 9,9 - 8,8,9

Postlude

Dorian

Dennis Teitsma 2015
Psalm 97

Prelude

Chorale 6,6,7 - 6,6, - 6,6,6

Ionian

Postlude

Dennis Teitsma 2015
Psalm 98  (66, 118)

Prelude

Chorale 9,8 - 9,8 - 9,8 - 9,8  Hypo-ionian

Postlude

Dennis Teitsma 2015
Psalm 100

Prelude

Chorale 8,8 - 8,8

Phrygian

Transpose from phrygian mode in d to e

Postlude

Chorale in e

Postlude

Dennis Teitsma 2015
Psalm 101

Prelude

Chorale 11,11 - 10,4

Hypo-ionian

Postlude

Second Version

Postlude

D.T. 2015
Psalm 102

Prelude

Chorale 8,8 - 7,7 -- 8,8 - 8,8

Phrygian

Postlude

Dennis Teitsma 2015
Psalm 103

Prelude

Chorale 11,11,10, - 11,11,10

Hypomixolydian

Postlude
Psalm 104

Prelude

Chorale 10,10 - 11,11 -- 10,10 - 11,11  Dorian

Postlude  

D. Teitsma 2015
Psalm 105

Prelude

Chorale 9,9 - 8,8 - 8,8

Ionian

Postlude

Dennis Teitsma 2015
Psalm 106

Prelude

Chorale 8,8,9 - 8,9,8

Hypo-aeolian

Postlude

Dennis Teitsma 2015
Psalm 107

Prelude

Chorale 7,6 - 7,6 -- 6,7 - 6,7  
Dorian

Postlude

Dennis Teitsma 2015
Psalm 108  (60)

Prelude

Chorale 8,8 - 8,8 – 8,8 - 9,9

Hypo-ionian

Postlude
Psalm 111

(Prelude)

(Chorale 8,8,9 - 8,8,9)

(24, 62, 95)

(Postlude)

Dennis Teitsma 2015
Psalm 115

Prelude

Chorale 10,10,7 - 10,10,7

Dorian

Postlude 1

Postlude 2

Dennis Teitsna 2015
Psalm 116 (74)

Prelude

Chorale 10,11 - 11,10

Mixolydian

Postlude

Second Version

Postlude

Dennis Teitsma 2015
Psalm 117

Prelude

Chorale 8,8 - 8,8 - 8,8

Hypomixolydian

Postlude
Psalm 118  (66, 98)

Prelude

Chorale  9,8 - 9,8 --9,8 - 9,8  Hypo-ionian

Postlude

Dennis T. 2015
Psalm 119

Prelude

Chorale 10,11,10 - 11,10,11

Hypo-ionian

Postlude

Dennis T. 2015
Psalm 121

Prelude

Chorale 8,6,6 - 8,7,7

Hypomixolydian

Postlude

D.T. 2015
Psalm 122

Prelude

Chorale 8,8,8 - 8,8,9 - 8,8,9

Ionian

Postlude

Dennis Teitsma 2015
Psalm 123

Prelude

Chorale 10,6 - 11,7 -- 11,7 - 10,6

Hypo-ionian

Postlude
Psalm 124

Prelude

Chorale 10,10,10,10,10

Hypo-ionian

Postlude

D.T. 2015
Psalm 125

Prelude

Chorale 9,6,6 - 9,9,5

Postlude
Psalm 128

Prelude

Chorale 7,6 -- 7,6

Dorian

Postlude

Dennis Teitsma 2015
Psalm 129

Prelude

Chorale 10,11 - 10,11

Hypodorian

Postlude
Psalm 130

Prelude

Chorale 7,6 - 7,6 - 7,6 - 7,6

Dorian

Postlude
Psalm 131

Prelude

Chorale 8,8 - 8,8

Phrygian

Postlude

Transpose from d to e

vers 3 (Chorale - one note higher on phrygian e)

Postlude

D.T./15
Psalm 132

Prelude

Chorale 8,8,8 - 8,8

Phrygian

Postlude

Second Version

Postlude

dT/15
Psalm 133

Prelude

Chorale 11,11,8 - 10,10,8

Postlude
Psalm 136

Prelude on c

Transposition to d

Chorale 7,7 - 7,7 on c

Mixolydian

Second Version on d

Prelude on d

Chorale on d

Postlude

Dennis T.
Psalm 138

Prelude

Chorale 8,4,5 -- 8,4,5

Ionian

Postlude

Dennis Teitsma 2015
Psalm 139

Prelude

Chorale 8,8 - 8,8 - 9,9

Hypomixolydian

Postlude

Dennis Teitsma 2015
Psalm 140

Prelude

Chorale 9,8 - 9,8

Hypo-ionian

Postlude

Second Version

Chorale

Postlude

Dennis Teitsma 2015
Psalm 142 (100, 131)

Prelude

Chorale 8,8 - 8,8

Postlude

Dennis T. 2015
Psalm 145

Prelude

Chorale 10,10,10,10 - 11,11,11,11 Mixolydian

Postlude
Psalm 146

Prelude

Chorale 8,7 - 8,7 - 7,7

Hypodorian

Postlude 1

Interlude/Postlude 2

Dennis Teitsma 2015
Psalm 147

Prelude

Chorale 9,9 - 9,9 -- 9,9 - 9,9

Phrygian

Postlude
Psalm 148

Prelude

Chorale 8,8 - 8,8 -- 9,9 - 8,8

Postlude 1

Postlude 2

Dennis Teitsma 2015
Psalm 149

Prelude

Chorale 9,9 - 9,7 -- 8,8 - 8,6

Dorian

Postlude

Dennis Teitsma 2015
Psalm 150

Prelude

Chorale 7,7 - 7,7,8 - 7,7,8

Ionian

Postlude

Dennis Teitsma 2015