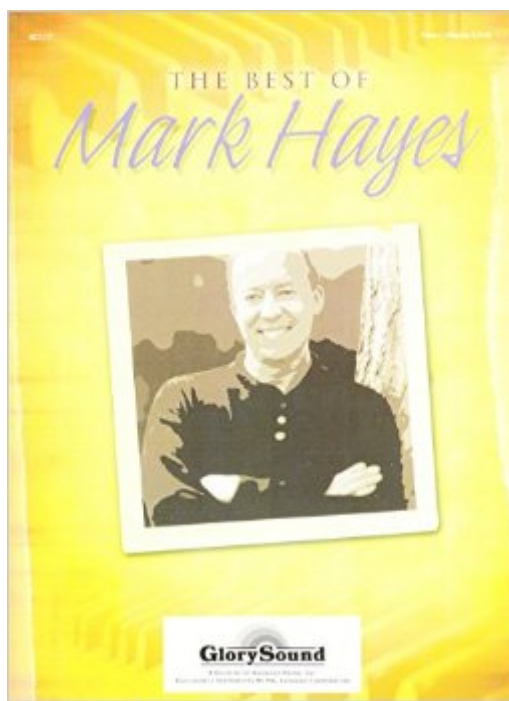


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The Best Of Mark Hayes



Synopsis

(Shawnee Press). Here is the one you've been waiting for! Legendary pianist/composer Mark Hayes has compiled the best of his best into an amazing potpourri of praise that will become an indispensable addition to your sacred library. All of Mark's amazing versatility is here from jazzy contemporary songs to classic hymn settings, from virtuosic concert pieces to meditative worship moments that will thrill the soul and melt the heart. Don't miss this best-selling treasury of one of America's most celebrated arrangers. Highly recommended! Contents: Tribute to America * Savior, like a Shepherd Lead Us * Sing We Now of Christmas * Masters in This Hall * His Eye Is on the Sparrow * Amazing Grace * Nobody Knows the Trouble I've Seen/All Day, All Night * Once to Every Man and Nation * It Is Well with My Soul * Higher Ground * Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross * Simple Gifts * I Need Thee Every Hour * Joshua Fit the Battle of Jericho * Shall We Gather at the River/Near to the Heart of God * Praise to the Lord, the Almighty * Silent Night * Be Thou My Vision.

Book Information

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Average Customer Review: 4.2 out of 5 stars Â Â See all reviews Â (30 customer reviews)

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Customer Reviews

I love Mark Hayes' arrangements, but these are a little simple for me. I wish the titles were longer than 3 pages; a few are, but I usually like offertories that are 6 pages or so - 3 minutes. The photo of the product is misleading - it shows a binder, but there was no binder provided. The book was bound as other books are.

I like Hayes' arrangements very much (and I do not find them too easy! In addition, most of these

songs ARE longer than 3 pages as is stated in another review). However, I am less than thrilled that the book did NOT come spiral bound as advertised. It came in "lay flat" binding, which is does - more or less. Not ideal, thus the 4 star rating instead of 5.

As someone who has been teaching piano intermittently for 40 years, I can say that the pieces in this book are entirely playable for anyone who has reached the grade 9 level of music in the Royal Conservatory (Canada). For Americans, that level corresponds to the point at which most of the Chopin waltzes are introduced. The arrangements are beautiful and timeless. But what I especially like about them is that they do not require a large hand. If you have small hands (as I have) but can master four note chords that span the octave, these arrangements will be fine for you. To cut down on the practice time required, look for places where you can substitute the L.H. for certain notes in the R.H. and vice-versa. There are many such places, some less obvious than others. For example, in bar 59 of "Higher Ground," taking the bottom note of the four note chords on beats three and four with the L.H. will greatly facilitate the playing of this passage. Of course, that advice is intended only for women with small hands, who have nevertheless learned to play the piano and have good dexterity.

I don't know why asked me to review this piano book because this is not the one that i ordered and received. The Mark Hayes one that I did order was absolutely wonderful and I loved playing the pieces. They were just challenging enough. However, I have lost that book and am heartbroken. I will be ordering more of Mark Hayes books. The arrangements sound very professional.

Mark Hayes is probably my favorite arranger overall, and this book doesn't disappoint. There are several unique arrangements that I haven't seen before that I'm having a lot of fun playing. Also good number of Christmas songs which will be nice when Dec. comes. Highly recommend it.

Honestly I am not a big fan of these arrangements. They are different. I could play pretty well through the first time but definitely for an advanced pianist. However somewhat jazzy chords and extra liberties taken with the simple melody lines. I just enjoy the beautiful melody lines without adding extra crazy fluff. I love taking Anthony Burger arrangements and adding some extra runs and bigger chords if needed. And amazing grace with a Latin tinged half time feel? Feels and sounds awkward and messy. Plus binding is NOT spiral bound. Anyway, just my 2 cents. :-)

I wish I had been able to see inside this book before ordering. Most songs are so difficult that much practice time is required. And many of the songs are too long for the time allotted in my church for prelude, offertory, or even special music.

I am a big fan of Mark Hayes arrangements. I had previously played out of his Volume II collection and loved it, so I was happy to see there was a book with all of those songs plus many more. I am an early advanced/late intermediate pianist, and most of the songs have challenging sections, but are fairly easy to learn with a little practice. Many have several key changes so they keep you on your toes, but the arrangements are really interesting; never boring. They are beautiful for church preludes and offering music. I get many compliments when I play anything Mark Hayes. If you can't play music with 3 or 4 flats or sharps, you might find it too difficult, but if you like a challenge it will be worth your time to learn these beautiful arrangements. My book came spiral bound as pictured, which is definitely a plus.

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