

The Old Rugged Cross

John 3:16 has been the inspiration for countless songs - including this one, perhaps the most beloved of all gospel songs. The composer had always associated this verse in his mind's eye with a primitive, rough-hewn, Roman cross.

A song began to take shape. The melody was written first, and then some imperfect lyrics, but the song remained incomplete. Rewriting and polishing didn't seem to help. But then, while participating in a series of revival meetings, his heart was "strangely warmed." The words and music soon fell beautifully into place.

That happened to George Bennard, an officer in the Salvation Army back in 1913. Little did he know at that time what a phenomenal ministry his song would have. He had composed "The Old Rugged Cross."

G. B.

GEORGE BENNARD
Arr. by Don Wyrtzen

Expressively, not rushed

The musical score consists of three staves. The top staff is for the piano, featuring two voices (treble and bass) with dynamics like *mp*, *mf*, and *p*. The middle staff is for the choir in unison, with the instruction *Tenderly*. The bottom staff is also for the choir. The lyrics are in English and Chinese. The English lyrics are:

On a hill far away, stood an old rug-ged cross,
各各他 山 頂 上, 立 一 十字架.

The emblem of suf-f'ring and shame;
這是羞辱痛苦記號;

Detailed description: The score is in common time, key signature is common, and includes various dynamics such as *mp* (mezzo-piano), *mf* (mezzo-forte), and *p* (pianissimo). The piano part features sustained notes and chords. The choir part has lyrics in both English and Chinese. The Chinese characters are written in a traditional style. The score is divided into sections with markings like '⑤' and 'div.'

(18)

poco a poco cresc.

And I love
神愛子
that old cross.
王耶稣
where the dear
為世人
est and
被金丁

poco a poco cresc.

best
死。
For a world
這
of lost sinners was slain.
衆為我最愛最寶

mf

mp

(21)

So I'll cher-ish the old rug-ged, cross.
故我愛高舉十字寶

mp

mel.

Till my tro - phies at last I lay down;
血 到 在 王 台 前 见 主 而

(29)

I will cling to the old rug-ged cross,
我 生 要 负 十 字 殊.
And ex-

(35) *mp*

change it some day for a crown.
张 可 使 公 靠 冠 是.

Warmly
mp (39)

O that old rugged cross, so de-

主宝表 十字架 世

spised by the world. Has a won - drous at - traction for

主聖徒 爲人 萬物 聖神 仁

(47) poco a poco cresc.

慈 me; For the dear Lamb of God left His glo - ry a-

神愛子 主基督 離棄天堂 罷榮

poco a poco cresc.

mf

bove To bear it to dark Cal - va - ry.
華 甘願為世人背此苦架。

(55) *mp*

So I'll cher-ish the old rug-ged cross,
mel. 古我愛高舉十學室
Till my

(59)

(63) *mf*

tro - phies at last I lay down;
在主面我將生要

(67)

old rug-ged cross.
此 十字架 可 换 公 義 冠

(71)

crown,
冕。
For a
換 冠

d d.
a tempo

rit.

crown,
冕。
For a
換 冠

a tempo

rit.