

EDITED BY MARGARET HOLLIS

Songs for the Long Table

Three songs to sing when the plates are cleared

HOLLIS & ROWE · SECOND PRINTING

To the singers

This little book holds three songs that a table of friends can sing without a piano: a hymn that every congregation knows, a comic ballad of the California gold rush and the Scottish song that sees the old year out. Each is printed with its melody, the guitar chords over the staff and the first verse under the notes. The other verses follow in two columns, so the eye can run on from the last bar without turning the page.

The keys suit voices that have had no training. *Amazing Grace* and *Auld Lang Syne* are in G, where the highest note is the D or E at the top of the staff, and *Clementine* is in F. A guitarist who wants a lower key can play the same shapes with a capo and leave the singers where they are.

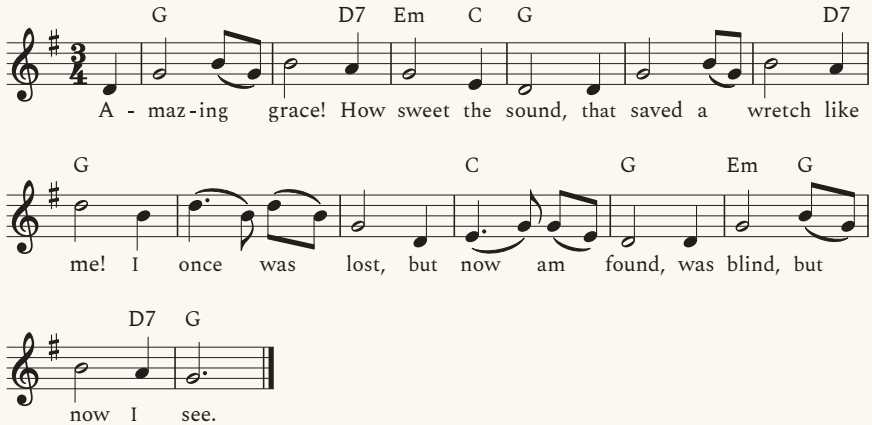
Where one syllable is held over two notes, the second note has no word under it: carry the vowel on to the next syllable. The notes at the back of the book say where the words and the tunes come from.

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1 Amazing Grace

WORDS JOHN NEWTON, 1779 · TUNE NEW BRITAIN,
AMERICAN, 1835



A - maz-ing grace! How sweet the sound, that saved a wretch like
me! I once was lost, but now am found, was blind, but
now I see.

2 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear,
And grace my fears reliev'd;
How precious did that grace appear
The hour I first believ'd!

3 Thro' many dangers, toils, and snares,
I have already come;
'Tis grace hath brought me safe thus far,
And grace will lead me home.

4 The Lord has promis'd good to me,
His word my hope secures;
He will my shield and portion be
As long as life endures.

2 Clementine

WORDS AND MUSIC PERCY MONTROSE, 1884

In a cav-ern, in a can-yon, ex-ca-vat-ing for a mine, dwelt a

min-er, for-ty-nin-er, and his daugh-ter Clem-en-tine.

Chorus *Oh my darling, oh my darling,
Oh my darling Clementine,
You are lost and gone for ever,
Dreadful sorry, Clementine.*

2 Light she was and like a fairy,
And her shoes were number nine,
Herring boxes without topses,
Sandals were for Clementine.

3 Drove she ducklings to the water
Every morning just at nine,
Hit her foot against a splinter,
Fell into the foaming brine.

4 Ruby lips above the water,
Blowing bubbles soft and fine,
But alas, I was no swimmer,
So I lost my Clementine.

5 How I missed her, how I missed her,
How I missed my Clementine,
Till I kissed her little sister
And forgot my Clementine.

3 Auld Lang Syne

WORDS ROBERT BURNS, 1788 · TUNE SCOTS, PRINTED 1799

Should auld ac-quaint-ance be for-got, and nev-er brought to
 mind? Should auld ac-quaint-ance be for-got, and auld lang syne! For
 auld lang syne, my jo, for auld lang syne, we'll tak' a cup o'
 kind-ness yet, for auld lang syne.

2 And surely ye'll be your pint-stoup!
 And surely I'll be mine!
 And we'll tak' a cup o' kindness yet,
 For auld lang syne.

3 We twa hae run about the braes,
 And pou'd the gowans fine;
 But we've wander'd mony a weary fit,
 Sin' auld lang syne.

4 We twa hae paidl'd in the burn,
 Frae morning sun till dine;
 But seas between us braid hae roar'd
 Sin' auld lang syne.

5 And there's a hand, my trusty fiere!
 And gie's a hand o' thine!
 And we'll tak' a right gude-willie
 waught,
 For auld lang syne.

Notes on the songs

AMAZING GRACE

John Newton, curate of Olney in Buckinghamshire, wrote the hymn for his New Year's Day sermon of 1773 and printed it in *Olney Hymns* in 1779. Nobody knows what the parish sang it to. William Walker first set it to *New Britain* in *Southern Harmony* in 1835, and the melody here follows the setting Edwin O. Excell printed in 1900, which most American hymnals still use. The three verses after the first keep Newton's spelling.

CLEMENTINE

Oliver Ditson of Boston published the song in 1884 with words by Percy Montrose, and a sheet of 1885 gives it to Barker Bradford. Both drew on an older song, *Down by the River Liv'd a Maiden*, printed in 1863. Sing the chorus after every verse, and slow down for the last one.

AULD LANG SYNE

Burns sent the song to *The Scots Musical Museum* in 1788 as an old song he had taken down from an old man's singing. It went to another tune at first; the one sung today appeared with the words in George Thomson's *Select Songs of Scotland* in 1799. Sing the chorus after each verse. At the last chorus the company crosses arms and joins hands round the table.

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