

HYMNS FOR THE ORTHODOX LITURGY

IT IS TRULY MEET

(HYMN TO THE THEOTOKOS)

John Warren is the director of the choir at the Orthodox mission Church of the Annunciation in Santa Maria, California and the present director of the Southern California Pan-Orthodox Choir. During the past seventeen years he has devoted much of his time to the setting and arranging of Orthodox hymns and chants in the English language.

The present setting of *It Is Truly Meet* is based on a chant melody recorded in Late Byzantine notation by Chrysanthus of Madytos c. 1832 and later transcribed into Western notation by John Sakellarides c. 1920. In setting the English text every effort has been made to retain the melismatic structure of the Greek original.

The setting for mixed chorus brings out the chant line by utilizing an uncomplicated harmonic arrangement, often employing parallel thirds set over static, ison-style pedal tones.

This hymn may also be performed in the more traditional Greek style, with one or several voices singing the chant melody in the soprano voice, while the other voices sustain the *isons*—drone pitches sung very quietly on a vowel sound such as "OH" or "OO." The final phrase, beginning with the words "True Theotokos..." is sung by all voices in unison without the ison.

All tempo and dynamic markings have been added by the arranger. For better sonority the work may be pitched one step higher.

JOHN WARREN
Harmonization of
Greek-Byzantine Chant, Tone 1
(Enharmonic-Minor Mode)

ISON PLACEMENT $\frac{4}{4}$ *mf* With Motion [$\text{♩} = 100-120$]

Soprano Alto

IT IS TRU - LY MEET — TO — BLESS —

Tenor Bass

$\frac{6}{4}$ *p* *(h) $\frac{4}{4}$ *(h) $\frac{6}{4}$ *mf*

YOU, O — THE - O - TO - KOS, EV - ER BLESS-ED AND MOST —

$\frac{4}{4}$ $\frac{5}{4}$ $\frac{2}{4}$ $\frac{4}{4}$ *p*

PURE, AND THE MOTH - ER OF OUR — GOD. MORE —

* ARRANGER'S NOTE: B \natural is indicated in some versions as marked. It should be sung with isons only and not in the harmonized setting where only B \flat is used.

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HON' - RA - BLE THAN THE

6/4

*(h)

CHER-U - BIM, AND MORE GLO - RI - OUS BE - YOND COM-PARE - THAN THE

f

*(h)

SER-A-PHIM: WITH - OUT DE - FILE - MENT YOU

4/4

p

6/4

*(h)

GAVE BIRTH TO GOD THE WORD:

4/4

mf

*(h)

TRUE THE-O - TO - KOS, WE MAG - NI - FY YOU.

rit.

f

p