

How Firm a Foundation

Hal H. Hopson

Commissioned by The White Bluff Presbyterian Church, Savannah, Georgia,
to celebrate its 250th year as a church in the Reformed tradition
and its 50th year as a Presbyterian church.

Anonymous 18th century text

Setting by Hal H. Hopson, based on an early American melody

in a strong, steady 2 (♩ = ca. 66)

All in unison *mf*

Musical score for the first system. The vocal line is in treble clef with a key signature of two sharps (F# and C#) and a 2/2 time signature. It begins with a whole rest followed by a half note G4, then a half note A4, and a half note B4. The piano accompaniment is in grand staff (treble and bass clefs) with the same key signature and time signature. It starts with a *mf* dynamic and features a steady accompaniment. A watermark 'FOR REVIEW ONLY' is visible diagonally across the score.

Musical score for the second system. The vocal line continues with the lyrics: "firm a foun - da - tion, you saints of the Lord, is — laid for your". The piano accompaniment continues with the same accompaniment pattern. A watermark 'FOR REVIEW ONLY' is visible diagonally across the score.

Musical score for the third system. The vocal lines are for Soprano Alto (S.A.) and Tenor Bass (T.B.). The lyrics are: "faith in God's ex - cel - lent Word! What more can be". The piano accompaniment continues. A watermark 'FOR REVIEW ONLY' is visible diagonally across the score.



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An optional handbell part (19 bells, 3 octaves) is available separately (no. 405-685)
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2

14

all in unison

said than to you God has said, to you who for

18

S.A. f

re - fuge to Je - sus have fled? When through fi - ery

Handbells tacet

f

23

tri - als your path - way shall lie. My grace, all suf -

27

fi - cient, shall be your sup - ply; the flame shall not

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31

hurt you; I on - ly de - sign your — dross to con -

35

sume, and your gold to re - fine.

39

Solo, Ensemble, or first Sopranos *p*

“When — through the deep wa - ters I

“Fear — not, — I will be near you. Fear — not, —

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4
45

call you to go, the riv - ers of sor - row shall not o - ver - flow;
I will be near you. Fear not, fear not, for

This system contains the first two systems of music. The first system includes a vocal line and a piano accompaniment. The second system continues the vocal line and piano accompaniment. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 4/4.

51

for I will be near you, your
I am your God; I will be near you. Fear not,

This system contains the second system of music. It includes a vocal line and a piano accompaniment. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 4/4.

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5

57

trou - bles to bless, and sanc - ti - fy to you your deep - est dis -
I will be near you. Fear fear not, I will be

62

tress." near you." How firm a foun - da - tion, how firm a foun - da - tion, how

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6

68

not, I am with you, O be not dis - mayed, for I am your

firm a foun - da - tion, how firm a foun - da - tion, how firm a foun -

73

God and will still give you aid.

da - tion, how firm a foun - da - tion, how firm a foun - da - tion, how

78

I'll strength - en you, help you, and

firm a foun - da - tion, how firm a foun - da - tion, how firm a foun -

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7

83

cause you to stand, up - held by my right - eous, om - nip - o - tent

da - tion, how firm a foun - da - tion, how firm a foun - da - tion, how

88

hand."

firm a foun - da - tion.

93

S.A. *ff*

T.B. *ff*

+ Handbells

"The soul that on Je - sus hath leaned for re - pose, I

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8

98

div. f

will not, I will not de - sert to it's foes; that soul, though all

div. f

103

hell should en - deav - or to shake, I'll nev - er, no

107

ff

nev - er. no nev - er for - sake."

rit.

ff

rit.

The musical score is written for voice and piano. It consists of three systems of music. The first system (measures 8-98) features a vocal line with lyrics and a piano accompaniment. The second system (measures 103-107) continues the vocal line and piano accompaniment. The third system (measures 107-111) concludes the piece with a final vocal phrase and piano accompaniment. Dynamics include *div. f*, *ff*, and *rit.*