

My God Is a Rock is an historic Georgia Sea Island plantation spiritual that, typical of its genre, tells a biblical story in lively question-and-answer fashion. The rhyming answers (verses) respond to the questions instead of following biblical chronology, reflecting the song's improvisatory nature.

In this arrangement by Jay Althouse, the question-and-answers occur between full choir and unison men's voices. To heighten the antiphonal effect in performance, soloists or pairs of singers may be assigned to the unison passages and positioned around the room or stage. Available in both S.A.T.B. and S.A.B. voicings, **My God Is a Rock** is appropriate for both school and church choirs.

For performance by church choirs, suggested corresponding lectionary readings include Psalm 31: 1-4 and 71: 1-5, Matthew 7: 21-29 and 16: 13-19, and Hebrews 2: 13. One basic homiletical theme is trusting in God, the Rock and Redeemer, to be a shelter in times of distress. This spiritual is appropriate for worship throughout the year and especially during Lent or Pentecost.

Jay Althouse has written choral music for all levels of school and church choirs. He has over 450 choral compositions and arrangements in print. Jay received a B.S. in Music Education and an M.Ed. in Music from Indiana University of Pennsylvania.

MY GOD IS A ROCK

for S.A.T.B. voices, accompanied*

GEORGIA SEA ISLAND SPIRITUAL
Arranged by JAY ALTHOUSE

Moderato (♩ = ca. 116-120), with a feeling of two pulses per measure

SOPRANO
ALTO

TENOR
BASS

ACCOMP.

The musical score is arranged for Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass, and Accompaniment. It is in the key of D major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The tempo is Moderato, with a quarter note equal to approximately 116-120 beats per minute, and a feeling of two pulses per measure. The score begins with a piano introduction in the accompaniment part, marked with a forte (*f*) dynamic. The vocal parts enter with a melodic line. A large red watermark is overlaid diagonally across the score, reading "Preview Only" and "Legal use Requires Purchase".

* Also available for S.A.B. voices, No. 18351.

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6

God is a rock in a wea-ry land, - wea-ry land, -

wea-ry land. - My God is a rock in a wea-ry land, -

shel-ter in a time of storm. - My -

15

f

Stop! Let me tell you 'bout the Chap-ter One, — when the
 Stop! Let me tell you 'bout the Chap-ter Two, — when the
f unis.

17

1. 2.

Lord God's work — is just be - gun — Oh,
 Lord God's writ-ten His Bi-ble through...

1.

2.

20

21

mf

My God is a rock in a wea-ry land, —

mf

mf

23

wea-ry land, — wea-ry land. — My God is a rock in a

26

wea - ry land, — shel - ter in a time of storm. —

28

28

31

f

Stop! Let me tell you 'bout the Chap-ter Three, — when the
 Stop! Let me tell you 'bout the Chap-ter Four, — when the
 Stop! Let me tell you 'bout the Chap-ter Five, — when the
 Stop! Let me tell you 'bout the Chap-ter Six, — when He

f unis.

f

33

1., 2., 3.

4.

Lord God died on Cal - va - ry. — Oh,
 Lord God vis - its a - mong the poor. — Oh,
 Lord God brought the dead a - live. — Oh,
 went to Je - ru - sa - lem and

healed the sick.

1., 2., 3.

4.

36 *mf* 37

My God is a rock in a wea-ry land, _ wea-ry land, _

40

wea-ry land. _ My God is a rock in a wea-ry land, _

43

shel-ter in a time of storm. _

47

f

Stop! Let me tell you 'bout the Chap-ter Sev'n, — when He
 Stop! Let me tell you 'bout the Chap-ter Eight, — when —
 Stop! Let me tell you 'bout the Chap-ter Nine, — when He
 Stop! Let me tell you 'bout the Chap-ter Ten, — when the

finis.

49

1., 2., 3. 4.

died and — rose — and — went to heav'n. — Oh,
 John saw Him stand in' at the Gold-en Gate. — Oh,
 turned that — wa-ter — in - to wine. — Oh,
 Lord says He's com-in' to the world a-gain. —

52 *(f)* 53

My God is a rock in a wea-ry land, —

(f)

(may be performed a cappella through m. 58)

55

wea-ry land, — wea-ry land, — I know He is a rock in a

58

wea-ry land, — shel-ter in a time of storm. — *mp*

mp My

(f)

61

God is a rock in a wea-ry land, — wea-ry land, —

mp

64 wea-ry land. — My God is a rock in a wea-ry land, —

rit.

67 *Slower* *p* shel-ter in a time of storm. — *unis.*

Slower *p*

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