


USING THE HYMNBOOK

Many of the songs you will conduct are from the hymnbook, and you should learn about its resources. Using these resources will help you conduct the hymns. The items described below are numbered on the sample hymn on page 17.

1. The title of the hymn.
2. The hymn number. It is correct to refer to *hymn numbers* rather than *page numbers*.
3. The mood marking, suggesting the general feeling or spirit of the hymn.
4. The suggested tempo (rate of beats per minute) for the hymn. Here $\text{♩}=84-96$ tells us that 84 to 96 quarter notes can be played in 60 seconds, or about 3 quarter notes every 2 seconds.
5. The treble clef sign (♩) and the bass clef sign (♭). These are placed on five-line **staves** ().
6. The **key signature**, showing what **key** the hymn is written in. This tells how many **sharps** or **flats** the hymn has.
7. The time signature (see page 7).
8. **Introduction** brackets, showing a suitable piano or organ introduction.



9. The hymn text. There are six **verses** (or **stanzas**) in this text.
10. Additional verses of the text. You are encouraged to include these when you sing the hymns.
11. The author of the text.
12. The composer or music source.
13. Suggested scriptures that may be cross-referenced with the hymns. Study these scriptures to help you better understand the meaning and spirit of the hymns.

Turn to “How Great Thou Art” (*Hymns*, no. 86) and identify the items listed above. This hymn has a **refrain** on the second page which is sung after each verse. Look through the hymnbook and find another hymn with a refrain.

The section “Using the Hymnbook” (*Hymns*, 379–86) has more helpful information. Turn to page 383 and read the helps for beginning music directors.