THE PROMISE

it is well

Album track listing

Kumbaya

We Are Marching Over To Jerusalem

I Will Lay Me Down In Peace

Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus

It Is Well With My Soul

A Quiet Place

As The Deer

Prelude in C

It Is Well

Doxology



As I write, singing in public is illegal and potentially deadly.

Singing? Who could object to singing? It reveals our deepest emotions, echoes our faith, and builds bonds between people—studies show group singing releases oxytocin, the hormone that builds feelings of trust and belonging.

I always enjoy watching vocalists grow as individuals and develop synergy as a creative team, building enduring friendships while singing together.

We hope these songs, released during the worldwide coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, remind you it is always well for God's children and encourage you to look forward to singing together again.

"And I heard . . . the voice of a great multitude . . . saying, 'Alleluia! For the Lord God Omnipotent reigns! Let us be glad and rejoice and give Him glory'" (Revelation 19:6-7, NKJV).

Aleta King
Artistic Director, The Promise
Director, Avondale Conservatorium

Kumbaya

Traditional African American
Aleta King, transcription & arrangement
Chanelle Felix, djembe

We Are Marching Over To Jerusalem

Traditional African
Aleta King, transcription & arrangement
Chanelle Felix, djembe

I first heard this song from African and Caribbean students in an English secondary school. They were each doing their own thing but I was mesmerised by how singing this song united them.

I Will Lay Me Down In Peace

P M King, music
Psalm 4:8, words

I will lay me down in peace and take my rest;

For it is Thou, Lord, only, that makest me dwell in safety.

I will lay me down in peace and take my rest.

Amen.

In the Avondale Conservatorium music library, I found this little gem neatly handwritten with fountain pen on yellowed paper, brittle with age. It was not listed in the catalogue and, though the composer signs as P M King, further details remain a mystery. Yet the request for God's presence and peace apply to anyone in any age.

Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus

Helen H Lemmel (1922), words and music
Michael W Smith, violin solo arrangement
Aleta King, choral arrangement
David Pudney, piano arrangement
Aleta King, violin
David Pudney, piano

Turn your eyes upon Jesus,
Look full in His wonderful face,
And the things of earth will grow strangely dim,
In the light of His glory and grace.

It Is Well With My Soul

Philip Bliss (1873), music
Horatio Spafford (1873), words
Naomi Crellin, arrangement
Jakob Hogarth, Oliver Doyle, vocal solos

When peace like a river attendeth my way
When sorrows like sea billows roll
Whatever my lot, Thou has taught me to say,
"It is well, it is well with my soul."

Though Satan should buffet, thou trials should come,
Let this blest assurance control,
That Christ has regarded my helpless estate,
And hath shed His own blood for my soul.

My sin, O the bliss of this glorious thought,
My sin not in part but the whole,
Is nailed to the cross and I bear it no more,
Praise the Lord, it is well with my soul.

And Lord, haste the day when my faith shall be sight,
The clouds be rolled back as a scroll,
The trump shall resound, and the Lord shall descend,
Even so, it is well with my soul.

Sandra Entermann commissioned Naomi Crellin from The Idea of North to arrange this much-loved hymn, then offered it to The Promise.

A Quiet Place

Ralph Carmichael (1969), words and music
David Pudney, arrangement
Oliver Doyle, trumpet solo
David Pudney, piano

There is a quiet place
Far from the rapid pace
Where God can soothe my troubled mind

Sheltered by tree and flower
There in my quiet hour
With Him my cares are left behind

Whether a garden small
Or on a mountain tall
New strength and courage there I find

Then from this quiet place
I go prepared to face
A new day with love for all mankind

As The Deer

Martin J Nystrom (1984), music
Psalm 42:1, words
Oliver Doyle, choral arrangement
David Pudney, piano arrangement
Caitlin Smith, vocal solo

As the deer panteth for the water so my soul longs after You.
You alone are my heart's desire and I long to worship You.
You alone are my strength, my shield,
To You alone may my spirit yield.
You alone are my heart's desire and I long to worship you.

You're my friend and You are my brother even though You are my king.
I love you more than any other, so much more than anything.
You alone are my strength, my shield,
To You alone may my spirit yield.
You alone are my heart's desire and I long to worship you.

Prelude in C

Charles Gounod (1853), original melody
Johann Sebastian Bach (1722), original harmony
David Pudney, arrangement
Jackson Burke, electric bass solo
David Pudney, piano

It Is Well

Philip Bliss (1873), music
Horatio Spafford (1873), words
Andrew Legg, arrangement
Elyse Atkins, vocal solo
David Pudney, piano and acoustic bass

We were inspired by a workshop with Associate Professor Andrew Legg, who began his gospel career supporting Aretha Franklin and Stevie Wonder, then went on to work with leading gospel artists such as Kirk Franklin. He kindly gave us this arrangement.

Doxology

Louis Bourgeois (c.1500s), melody
Thomas Ken (1674), words
Oliver Doyle, arrangement

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

Credits

The Promise

Soprano: Tara Newman, Caitlin Smith
Soprano/Alto: Georgia Robertson, Kahlie Wrankmore
Alto: Emily Shield
Alto/Tenor: Chanelle Felix, Elyse Atkins
Tenor/Baritone: Jakob Hogarth
Bass: Emile Noronha, Oliver Doyle
Artistic Director: Aleta King

Musicians

Violin/Vocals: Aleta King
Flugel Horn: Oliver Doyle
Electric Bass: Jackson Burke
Piano/Acoustic Bass: David Pudney

It Is Well

Executive Producer: Aleta King
Producer and Engineer: Dale Willis
Designer: Danielle Chipchase Noble
Photographer: Bevan Craig
Manager: Brenton Stacey
Liner Notes Writer: Aleta King

Recorded at Avondale University College Seventh-day Adventist Church, Cooranbong. NSW, Australia, in November 2019
www.avondale.edu.au/thepromise
www.avondale.edu.au/conservatorium

We could not have produced this album without the generous and ongoing support of Peter Duncan, who provides the funding for our Duncan–Kranz Choral Scholarships.
We dedicate "I Will Lay Me Down In Peace" to Peter in memory of his wife, Valerie.

