

Level 3+

# Eternal Father, Strong to Save

Arranged for 4 to 7 Octave Handbell Choir  
with optional 4 to 7 Octaves of Handchimes

by

**Sandra Eithun**

Commissioned by Sarah Sheffield as a thank you to her handbell mentors -  
 Craig Estep, Mike Horai, Kathy White, Laura Blauch, Brian Childers, Trey Helms, Queen City Ringers,  
 David Harris and The Raleigh Ringers

# Eternal Father, Strong to Save

For 4-7 Octave Handbell Choir with Optional 4-7 Octave Handchimes

Handbells used: 49, (61), (67), (70)

optional

optional

Optional Handchimes used: 33, (39), (43), (47)

optional

## PERFORMANCE NOTES:

- 4-octave choirs omit notes in [ ].
- 5-octave choirs omit notes in < >.
- 6-octave choirs omit notes in { }.

MELITA  
 John Bacchus Dykes, 1823-1876  
 Arranged by SANDRA EITHUN

Freely; unsettled (♩ = 68)

1

2

3 LV

4

mp

2

## Performance options:

Some of the very low bass ringers may opt to use the suspended mallet technique in measures 1-12 for times when the dynamic is very low.

If a wave/ocean drum is available, it can be added randomly and quietly between measures 1-12 and 84-90.

5 LV 6 7 LV 8 LV

9 LV 10 LV 11 LV 12 LV

*f* LV LV LV R *mp* *molto rit.*

Energetic; restless (♩ = 80)

13 R 14

*f*

Musical score for piano, measures 15-20. The score is written for two staves (treble and bass clef). Measure 15 shows a melodic line in the treble clef and a bass line with many '+' signs. Measure 16 features a dynamic marking of *ff* and a 'RT' marking above the treble staff. Measures 17 and 18 continue the melodic and bass lines. Measure 19 shows a melodic line in the treble clef and a bass line with many '+' signs. Measure 20 features a melodic line in the treble clef and a bass line with many '+' signs. A large diagonal watermark reading 'Preview Copy - Not for performance' is overlaid on the score.

21 *mf* *cresc. poco a poco*

22 *f* \*

23 \*\*

24

25 *mf* *cresc. poco a poco* LV R

26 LV R *f*

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\* Cue size note to be played only by 4 octave choirs.

\*\* C5 and C#5 are printed in the treble clef in measures 23-26 for rhythmic clarity.

27 28

Musical score for measures 27 and 28. Measure 27 is in 4/4 time, and measure 28 is in 2/4 time. The score includes treble and bass staves with various notes, rests, and dynamic markings like 'mp' and 'mf'.

29 30 31

Musical score for measures 29, 30, and 31. Measure 29 is in 4/4 time, and measures 30 and 31 are in 2/4 time. The score includes treble and bass staves with various notes, rests, and dynamic markings like 'mp LV', 'LV', 'mf', and 'mp LV'.

32 33 34

Musical score for measures 32, 33, and 34. Measure 32 is in 2/4 time, and measures 33 and 34 are in 4/4 time. The score includes treble and bass staves with various notes, rests, and dynamic markings like 'LV', 'R', and 'LV'.

35 36 37

Musical score for measures 35, 36, and 37. Measure 35 is in 4/4 time, and measures 36 and 37 are in 2/4 time. The score includes treble and bass staves with various notes, rests, and dynamic markings like 'R', 'LV', 'mp', and 'mf'.

38 R 39 40

*cresc. poco a poco*

This system contains measures 38, 39, and 40. Measure 38 starts with a right-hand (R) fingering. The music features a treble clef with a key signature of one flat and a 7/8 time signature. The bass line consists of chords. A dynamic marking of *cresc. poco a poco* is placed above measure 40.

41 42 43

*f*

This system contains measures 41, 42, and 43. Measure 41 has a 7/8 time signature. Measure 42 has a dynamic marking of *f*. Measure 43 has a 2/4 time signature and includes left-hand (LV) and right-hand (R) fingering markings.

44 45

*p* *rit.* *mp* *f*

This system contains measures 44 and 45. Measure 44 has a 4/4 time signature and includes a piano (*p*) dynamic marking and a *rit.* (ritardando) instruction. Measure 45 has a mezzo-piano (*mp*) dynamic marking and a forte (*f*) dynamic marking. It includes left-hand (LV) and right-hand (R) fingering markings.

46 47 48

*a tempo*

This system contains measures 46, 47, and 48. Measure 46 has a 4/4 time signature and includes an *a tempo* instruction. The system includes left-hand (LV) and right-hand (R) fingering markings.

49 R *mf* 50 51 52

*dim.* 2 4

*mp vib. (whole note bells only)*

*vib.*

53 54 55 56

*f*

*mf vib.*

*vib.*

57 58 59

3

Musical score for measures 60-63. The right hand (RH) contains a melodic line with quarter notes and eighth notes, marked with '+' above the notes. The left hand (LH) features a complex texture with multiple layers of notes, including a triplet of eighth notes in measure 60. A 'rit.' (ritardando) marking is present in measure 62. A large watermark 'Preview Copy - Not for Performance' is overlaid diagonally across the page.

Musical score for measures 64-65. Measure 64 begins with a 'mf a tempo' marking. The RH has a melodic line with a slur over measures 64 and 65. The LH has a rhythmic accompaniment with eighth notes and rests. A 'rit.' marking is also present in measure 64. A large watermark 'Preview Copy - Not for Performance' is overlaid diagonally across the page.

Musical score for measures 66-67. Measure 66 continues the melodic and rhythmic patterns. Measure 67 features a 'ff' (fortissimo) dynamic marking and includes a 'RT' (ritardando) marking. The RH has a melodic line with slurs and accents. The LH has a complex texture with multiple layers of notes. A large watermark 'Preview Copy - Not for Performance' is overlaid diagonally across the page.



74 75

76 77

*mf* \* *cresc. poco a poco* *f*

LV R

78 79

*ff*

Sk *(all)* R

\* D5 is printed in the bass clef for rhythmic clarity.

Tempo I

\* C3 through C5 ring on beat one, then SB through measure 89.

\*\* Detach SB dowel on beat one and let fade.

