Ascending Cadence Gestures, A New Historical Survey, Part 5b1: Hymnals by Augustus and Frederick Fillmore, 1847-1893

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Abstract:

Part 5b1 is a supplement to Part 5b of the *New Historical Survey*. Where Part 5b offered examples from Shaker and Mormon hymnals published between 1893 and 1909, Part 5b1 covers six earlier hymnals compiled and partly written by the Fillmores and published in Cincinnati between 1847 and 1893. The earliest of them, *The Christian Psalmist*, was co-authored by Silas W. Leonard and Augustus D. Fillmore; it combined standard notation with two other formats and was one of the commercially most successful American hymnals of the 19th century.

Unless indicated otherwise by note or citation, nothing in this file has been published previously, with the exception of referenced and unreferenced material that has appeared in other essays of mine published on the Texas ScholarWorks platform or in my blogs. Musical examples come from public domain sources, most of them from the Internet Archive and IMSLP. The license under which this essay is published is: <u>Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial-NoDerivs 3.0 United States</u>. All new material and the compilation copyright David Neumeyer 2022.

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Introduction

The *New Historical Survey* is a multi-part essay or essay series that gathers music from the 15th through the 20th centuries in a variety of genres. Part 1 is the general introduction. Part 2 includes music from Dunstable through 1650, Part 3 from 1650 to 1780, Part 4 from 1780 to 1860, and the present Part 5 from about 1860 through the US copyright barrier, which is currently the end of 1926. For background information and discussion of goals and methods, please refer to *Ascending Cadence Gestures, New Historical Survey, Part 1: Introduction:* link to Part 1. That file also contains a bibliography (with abstracts) of all my essays on ascending cadence gestures published up to May 2019. An updated index (January 2022) for the entire *Survey*, including prospective compositions for Part 5, may be found here: link to Survey index.

My highest priority in the *Survey* is documentation. "The main point, in other words, regardless of interpretative work, is in the number of pieces [with ascending and upper-register cadences], the fact that they exist, and their presence in well-known collections that saw significant use by musicians, the teachers of musicians, and religious congregations" (quoted from Part 1, the introduction to the *New Historical Survey*).

Part 5b1 is a supplement to Part 5b, which offered examples from Shaker and Mormon hymnals published between 1893 and 1909.

Neumeyer, David. 2020 July. <u>Ascending Cadence Gestures, A New Historical Survey, Part</u> 5b: Music from Hymnals, 1893-1909.

Part 5b of this multi-part essay that gathers compositions with ascending and upper-register cadence gestures in European and European-influenced music is given over to examples from Shaker and Mormon hymnals published in the United States between 1893 and 1909.

It may also be regarded as complementary to two other essays published earlier on the Texas ScholarWorks platform:

- Neumeyer, David. 2015 April/2018 October. <u>Kingsbury Hymns of Praise: Rising Lines.</u> Pieces with rising cadence gestures in *Hymns of Praise: For the Church and Sunday School*. Compiled by F. G. Kingsbury. Chicago: Hope Publishing Co., ©1922. A hymn book from my father's collection. Because of their largely nineteenth century origins, it seemed reasonable to think that hymns in the evangelistic tradition would be more likely than older tunes to have rising cadence gestures.
- Neumeyer, David. 2022 January. <u>Ascending Cadence Gestures, A New Historical Survey</u>, <u>Part 4d: Hymns, c1780-1860</u>.

Part 4 of the New Historical Survey series covers the years 1780-1860. Part 4d samples hymn collections from that period, including one published for the United Brethren (Moravian) in London in 1826 but drawn mostly from an earlier volume published in 1784, the Harmonia coelestis (Hartford, 1799), Harmonia sacra (Andover, 1816), Songs of Zion (New York, 1851), the Wesleyan Hymn and Tune Book (Nashville, 1860), and The Polyphonic or Juvenile Choralist (Cincinnati, 1863).

Part 5b1 covers six hymnals compiled and partly written by the Fillmores and published in Cincinnati between 1847 and 1893. The earliest of them, *The Christian Psalmist*, was co-authored by Silas W. Leonard and Augustus D. Fillmore; it combined standard notation with two other formats and was one of the most successful American hymnals of the 19th century.

The six hymnals, with their complete subtitles, are:

- Silas W. Leonard and Augustus D. Fillmore, The Christian Psalmist, A Collection of Tunes and Hymns of Various Metres, Original and Selected: For the Use of the Church of God, Bible Classes, and Singing Societies, Embracing the Round Note, the Numeral, and the Patent Note Systems of Notation (Cincinnati: self-published, 1847). n = 7 out of ~210.
- Augustus D. Fillmore and Comfort L. Fillmore, The Polyphonic; or Juvenile Choralist; Containing a Great Variety of Music and Hymns, New and Old, Designed for Schools and Youth Generally, Also Adapted to Use in Religious Meetings and the Home Circle. In Three Parts (Cincinnati: R. W. Carroll, 1863). n = 4 out of ~105.
- Augustus D. Fillmore, The Little Minstrel: A Collection of Songs and Music, With Lessons of Instruction, and Mathematically Arranged Plan of Notation (Cincinnati: R. W. Carroll, 1867). n = 8 out of ~95.
- Augustus D. Fillmore, The Violet: A Book of Music and Hymns, With Lessons of Instruction, Designed for Sunday-Schools, Social Meetings, and Home Circle (Cincinnati: R. W. Carroll, 1867). n = 10 out of ~100.
- Frederick A. Fillmore, Songs of Rejoicing: A Collection of New Songs for the Sunday School (Fillmore Bros., Cincinnati: 1888). n = 11 out of ~145.
- Frederick A. Fillmore, *Heart Songs: A New Collection for Sunday Schools* (Cincinnati: Armstrong & Fillmore, 1893). n = 22 out of ~165.

The results of the work agree with what I called in the introduction to Part 5b "three possible explanations" for the presence of ascending and upper-register cadences:

(1) the hymns in Part 5b were written in the second half of the 19th century, by which point more attention was being given generally to figures in the upper tetrachord, including ascending lines;

(2) the hymnbooks in Part 5b belong to non-mainstream evangelistic or charismatic religions, where one might expect to find departures from musical clichés in order to assist through music reaching an unmediated spiritual experience; and

(3) the treatment of melody in closing cadences may have been influenced by a variety of practices of descant singing.

The one consequential new point to be made is a correction of (1) above: although the numbers increase considerably in the later books here, till we reach the surprisingly large number of 22 out of ~165 in *Heart Songs*, some upper-register cadences can be found as early as 1847. This does not affect (2) or (3), however; in the case of (2) the Fillmores were publishing for non-mainstream, "Western" (now Midwestern) audiences, many in churches or denominations that grew out of the revival movements—and they were very successful at it: *The Christian Psalmist* alone went through 8 editions and sold 500,000 copies; in the case of (3) the six books contain a variety of setting types, including descant singing.

Two final points: First, in Part 4d the examples were gathered topically. In Part 5b and here, on the other hand, they appear according to the collection's year of publication, not the original date of composition or individual publication, and are given in page order, not in alphabetical order. Second, since this is not a hymnological exercise, I have made no attempt to situate the individual books or hymns in the context of their use, theological framework, or history, beyond the simple statement in the previous paragraph.

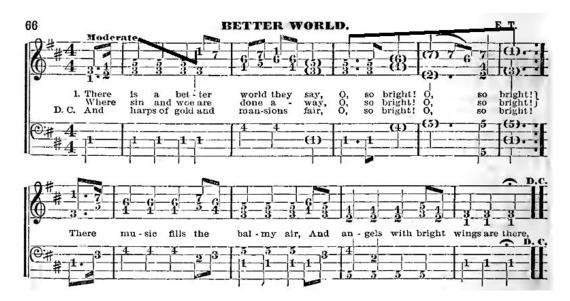
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On Text Expression. I repeat a conclusion from Part 5b: "In all of my work on this topic, I have found no consistent relationship between ascent and text expression. In music before 1600, for example, closing 'alleluias' are as likely to go down as up. In this hymn repertory, we see much the same thing." I will provide a number of examples below that would seem to contradict this claim. Recall, however, that hymns with ascending and/or upper-register cadences are a fraction of those in these six hymnals: the numbers (see under titles on the previous page) are only 72 out of a rough total of 820. In the remainder of this section, I will discuss a number of examples for direct text expression in the music.*

In upper-register cadences, one typically finds these five basic figures comprised of linear fragments covering the upper tetrachord of the major key (a & b) or different neighbor groups about ^8 (c-e):

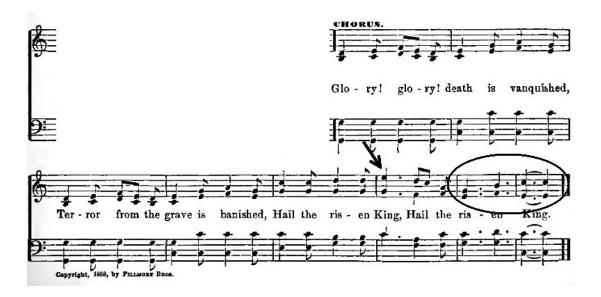


"Better World" from *The Little Minstrel* provides an example of cadence type (a) aligned in a direct way with text expression, the heavenly better world of the first phrase being followed by a rapturous description as a refrain: "O, so bright! O, so bright."



^{*} For strophic songs and hymns, of course, the problem is compounded by the fact that the music is repeated to a different set of words, often multiple times.

In the Easter hymn "Hail the Risen King" from *Songs of Rejoicing*, the cadence is type (b) above (circled) but it is preceded by a shape I have repeatedly found in early music and have dubbed "expressive highpoint"—see the arrow pointing to E5. Here the cry "Hail the risen King" is an outburst and the cadence simply confirms and closes.



"Morning Song," also from *The Little Minstrel*, focuses on figures around ^5 (circled) but then closes the verse with a slight variation on ^5-^7-^8 (beamed notes). In the refrain, a focal note ^8 is much more easily heard and the figure, sounded twice, is thus a double-neighbor, C5-B4-C5-D5-(B4)-C5, or similar to cadence (e). Connection to text expression is less clear, but the generally positive mood amounting to "Let's sing!" might help to explain it.



Augustus Fillmore's "Salvation! O the joyful sound!" from *The Polyphonic; or Juvenile Choralist* is still another hymn whose melody is firmly grounded in the interval ^5-^8 (G4-C4 here) and neighbor figures about ^8. The expressive highpoint E5 is reinforced by repetition but clearly is no competition for the salience of C5 in each two-bar unit.



Thomas Hastings, Light of Those, from The Christian Psalmist, uses light/dark, up/ down, heaven/earth images throughout, and figures of register, line, and cadence follow in a very unusual level of detail. "Light of those whose . . ." rises and "dreary dwelling" falls, then "Borders on the shades of death" stays in the dismal register of ^3. "Rise on us, thyself . . ." is obvious in the consequent phrase, "revealing" less so, but the cadence is a perfect match for "Rise, and chase the clouds beneath."



The figure ^6-^9-^8-^7-^8, incidentally, appears a number of times in hymns from the Fillmore collections. It can represent an elaborated rising line, as ^6-(^9-^8)-^7-^8, which may or may not merge with a covering ^10-^9 . . ., or the covering figure may form a "wedge" with the two lines converging on ^8 from both directions. (I have published a historical survey of such "wedge" figures on the Texas ScholarWorks platform: <u>link</u>.)

The text/music details in the second half: upper-register ^9 (D5) with ^10 (E5) as a brief neighbor for "Thou, of life and light creator" then a drop away for "In our deepest darkness rise." And in the end repetition of the upperregister cadence for "Pour the day upon our eyes."



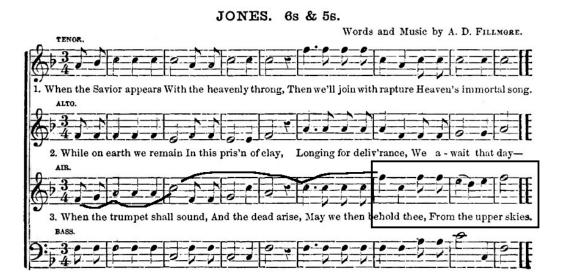
Frederick Fillmore's title hymn, *Song of Rejoicing*, from that collection has several of the same features:



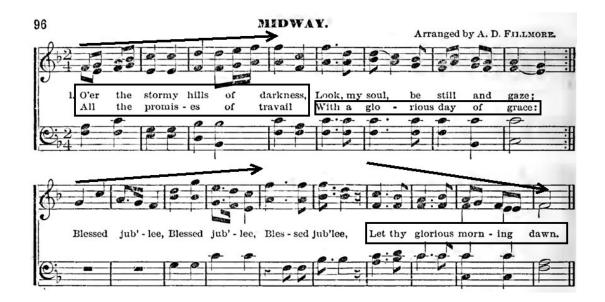
Come Children from *The Little Minstrel* uses the clear distinction of register we noted in "Morning Song," also from that collection. See the unfolded interval ^5-^8 at the beginning and the leap through that interval for the final exhortation to "come to the Sunday-school."



Jones, from *The Polyphonic; or Juvenile Choralist*, is the simplest example I have found, little more than a fanfare. The melody or "Air" is in the third staff. (The tenor, at the top, could also be used as a soprano descant if one chose.) Here, at the Last Judgment, rising is clearly the theme.



It is certainly not difficult to find counter-examples, that is, where music and direct text expression are not aligned. In *Midway*, from Augustus Fillmore's last collection, *The Violet* (1867), all that I have said above about "heaven," "skies," "praise" and rising figures is contradicted by the strong scalar ascent to "O'er the stormy hills of darkness" [and in the repetition "All the promises of travail"] as well as by the subsequent descent—not in "be still and gaze"—but in "With a glorious day of grace." Another strong ascent to "Blessed jub'lee" corrects the first lines, but an equally strong linear descent for "Let thy glorious morning dawn" is again deflating.



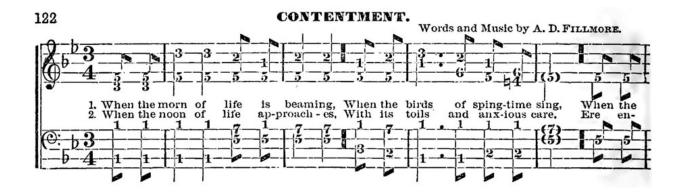
A topical or genre suggestion may help: *Midway* is not a hymn of praise or jubilation but a hymn of grace, that is, its subject is the Christian's release from (original) sin and the experience and promise of personal salvation. Understood that way, the descent and what one can call confirming or reassuring scale figures to close each section are appropriate.

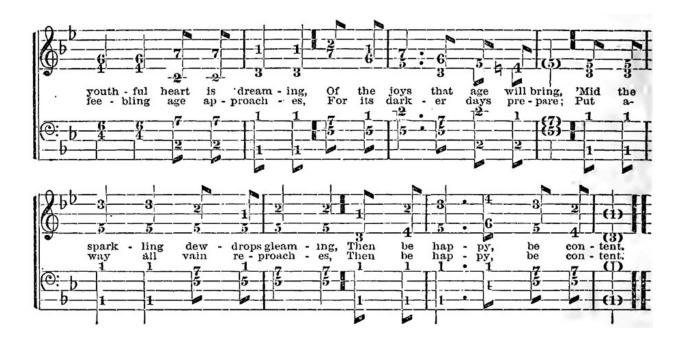
This association of text and figure is identical but seems to me more extreme in *Heaven is My Home*. "Heaven" (circled) is the lowest note in the first four bars—and it is present there in the lines for all three verses. "Earth is a desert drear" and "Short is my pilgrimage" lie above it, in the register of ^5, not ^3, and then "Heaven" reappears within another firm linear descent to ^1.

As happened in *Midway*, "Danger and sorrow" here head off to the upper octave (in this context, too, an expression of tension or anguish), and the final phrases confirm. *Heaven is My Home* lies between the private hymn of grace and the public hymn of praise and heavenly expectation—it is a *private* hymn of heavenly expectation, but akin to the more public expression of consolation in funerary hymns.



Both of my counter-examples above use figures in relation to text in a consistent way that can be taken as appropriate or at least plausible based on genre. Many other hymns are not so clear or simply seem indifferent. My last example is one of the latter. Augustus Fillmore's *Contentment* from *The Little Minstrel* is based on a youth-to-age narrative where the mood of a phrase changes from the first verse to the second. The upper-register cadence for the final phrase, "Then be happy, be content," certainly makes sense, but note that the immediately preceding phrase, plausible in the first verse ("Mid the sparkling dewdrops gleaming"), is not so for "Put away all vain reproaches." The same disparity between the verses holds in the two phrases before that.





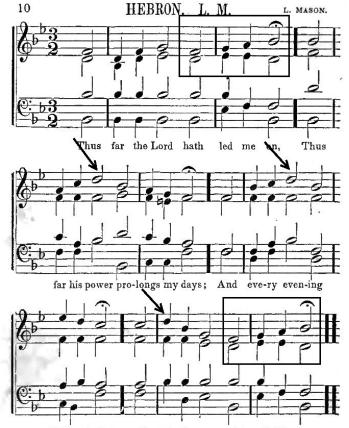
Finally, we have to acknowledge that some texts simply have no obvious (or more or less likely) musical analogues or even genre expectations, an assertion hardly new for the hymn repertoire broadly. I conclude this introduction by quoting the final sentence of Part 4d (p. 29): "In the end, one can only applaud the variety of historical musical practices."

§1. Silas W. Leonard and Augustus D. Fillmore, *The Christian Psalmist* (1847)

10. Lowell Mason, Hebron, "Thus far the Lord has led me on"

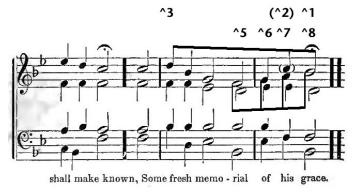
We begin with the less common example of a strongly defined focal tone ^3 (as ^10, here D5)—see the arrows. The boxed simple ascending lines in the first and last lines are of interest.

The combination of the higher focal tone and the cadence produces one of those "wedge" figures I mentioned in the introduction. The annotated score at the lower left of the page shows it, including the surprisingly common lack of a ^2 in the upper line: we are obliged to imagine it as filling in the interval of the third D5-Bb4.



shall make known, Some fresh memo - rial of his grace.

2 I lay my body down to sleep; Peace is the pillow for my head; While well appointed angels keep Their watchful stations round my bed.



28. Thomas Hastings, "Light of those whose weary dwelling" — see the introduction

118. S. Wakefield, Heavenly Vision, "The City of our God"

Unique in this repertory—assuming the notation is correct—by not closing on ^1. This hymn is not really a counter-example—instead, it's an anomaly. I include it because of its upper-register close; note that the melody never goes beyond ^3 (C#5). Overall the hymn has more the character of a chant than a clear and spun-out melody.



134. G. J. Webb, "How cheering the thought"

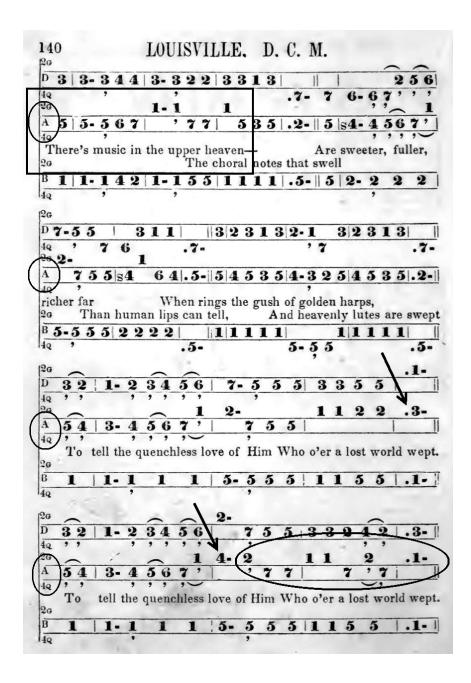
This project is beginning with a group of exceptions! Here again a definite focal tone ^3 (C#5) —see arrows. In the final cadence a wedge figure but with the elements consecutive rather than simultaneous.



140. Louisville, "There's music in the upper heavens"

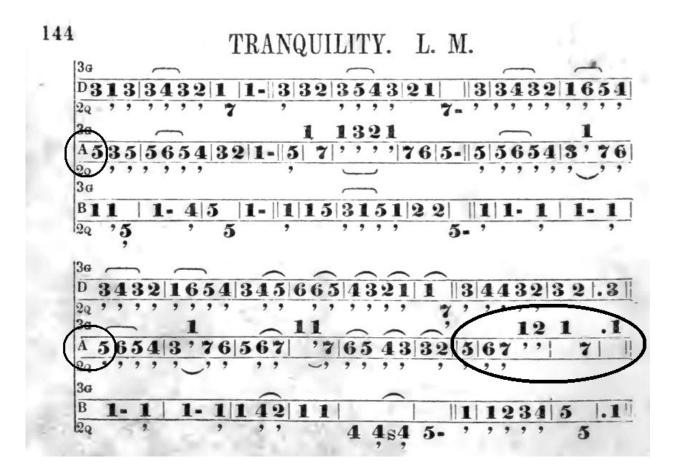
Recall that the subtitle of *The Christian Psalmist* includes the phrase "Embracing the Round Note, the Numeral, and the Patent Note Systems of Notation." "Round note" is standard musical notation, the "Numeral" system is a scale-degree-number scheme illustrated below by *Louisville* and which the Fillmores credit to T. H. Harrison, and "patent note" is a version of seven-shape notation. Roughly a third of the hymns in *The Christian Psalmist* is given over to each type.

"A" is "Air" or the melody, "D" is descant, and "B" is bass. Clear definition of the upper tetrachord (box), and expressive ^3 (first arrow), and a neighbor-note final cadence (circle) with an over-reaching ^4 (second arrow).



144. Tranquility [no text]

Combination of rising line and neighbor-note cadence.



184. Niagara, "From all that dwell below the skies"

Simple descent ^8 to ^1 (first box), then a defined interval ^5/^8 (second box), an expressive briefly covering ^3 (arrow), filling the ^5/^8 interval with a line (third box), then long neighboring patterns about ^8 (slurs), with an over-reaching ^4 as in *Louisville*.

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§2. Augustus D. Fillmore and Comfort L. Fillmore, *The Polyphonic*, or *Juvenile Choralist* (1863)*

A. D. Fillmore, Oregon, "Salvation! Oh the joyful sound!" - see the introduction

A. D. Fillmore, *Jones*, "When the Saviour appears with the heavenly throng" — see the introduction

Trenton, "Now condescend, Almighty King"

Common designs in the hymns are simple or expanded AB; verse/chorus or refrain, where the latter can be brief or more developed, reiterating material from the verse or independent of it; and ABA where B is most often what William Caplin, writing about earlier instrumental music, calls a "contrasting middle," an obviously subordinate formal section typically featuring the dominant. This last is the case here. As we saw particularly in songs and fiddle tunes from the 18th century (link 1; link 2; link 3), an expressive highpoint (or at least a cover-tone-height pitch) is often found in the B-section. The double arrow emphasizes that the music of the second A is identical to that of the first A.



^{*} Hymns from this collection are also included in Part 4d of the New Historical Survey.

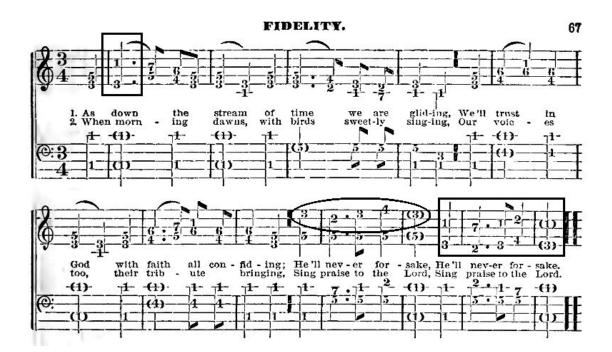
C. L. Fillmore, Welcome, "Welcome, delightful morn"



§3. Augustus D. Fillmore, The Little Minstrel (1867)

66. E. T., Better World, "There is a better world, they say" - see the introduction

67. Fidelity, "As down the stream of time"



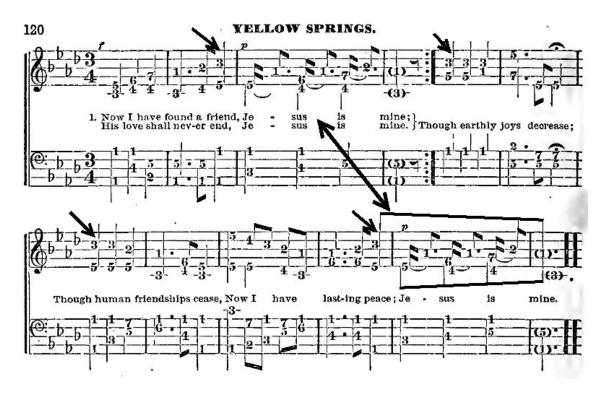
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^{101.} A. D. Fillmore, Father is Coming, "See, now it is the hour of six"

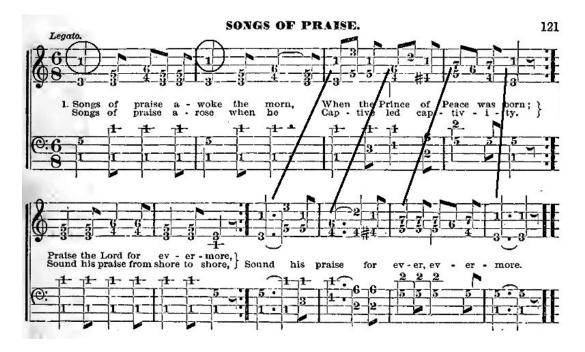


120. Yellow Springs, "Now I have found a friend"

Focal tone ^3 (C5) with an interesting wedge figure brought out by the distinctive rhythms of the ascending line.



121. "Songs of Praise awoke the morn"



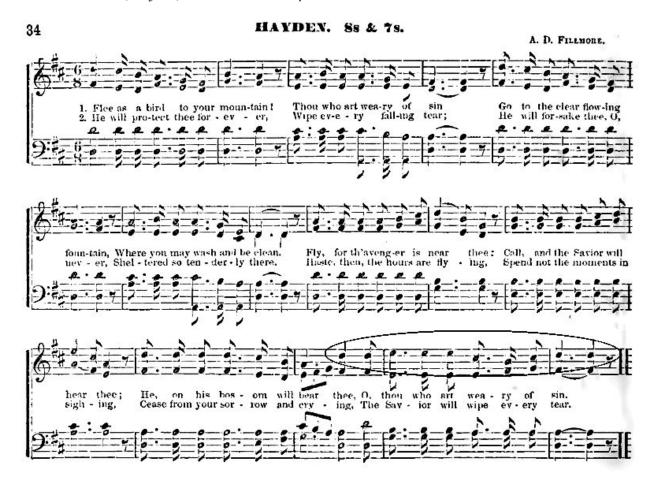
124. W. A. F., Morning Song, "Come join us, companions"

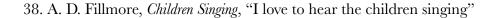
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34. A. D. Fillmore, Hayden, "Flee as a bird to your mountain"





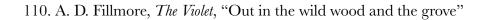


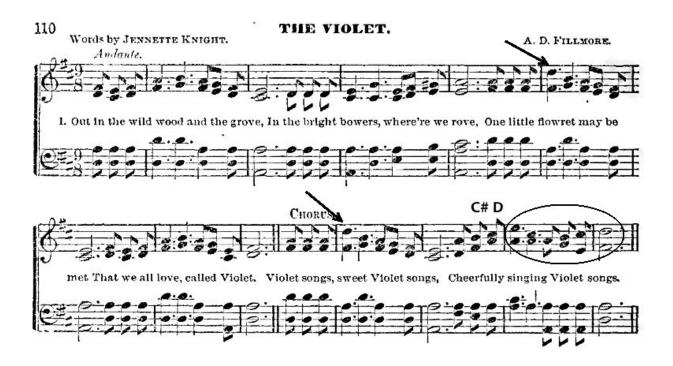
40. A. D. Fillmore, "Shall we sing in heaven forever"



"Come Let Us Sing" from *The Violet Book* expands on the potential of ^8 (as C5) in "Morning Song" to be a focal tone with explicit statements throughout: at the beginning (^8 as D5 circled), then confirmed in the second short phrase, then confirmed again in proximity to the final cadence. In this context, F#5 is plainly an expressive highpoint, and a salient line from it, F#5-E5-D5, is nevertheless secondary to the neighbor figure.







§5. Frederick A. Fillmore, Songs of Rejoicing (1888)

3. F. A. Fillmore, "Songs of salvation, daily we raise" - see the introduction

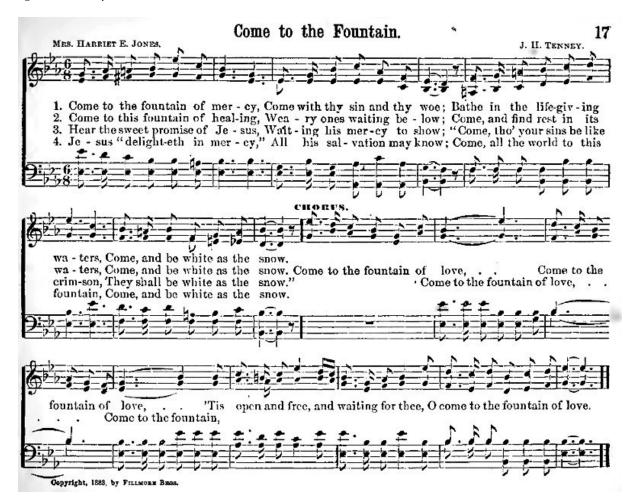
10. C. H. Fillmore, "Ring out, glad bells!"



15. F. A. Fillmore, Lead Me, "Jesus, my Saviour dear"



17. J. H. Tenney, "Come to the Fountain"

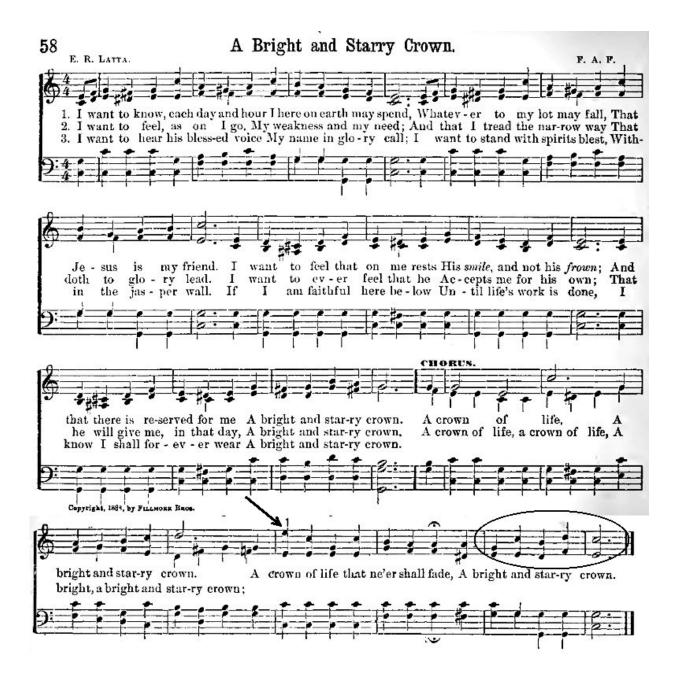


21. J. H. Fillmore, Little Ones Come, "Jesus said when here below"



23. F. A. Fillmore, Hail the Risen King, "Oh lips break forth in song" — see the introduction

58. F. A. Fillmore, A Bright and Starry Crown, "I want to know each day and hour"



104. J. H. Rosecrans, "O sing the sweet story again"

"He came from above" neatly identifies the expressive highpoint ^3 (E5) above ^1 (C5).



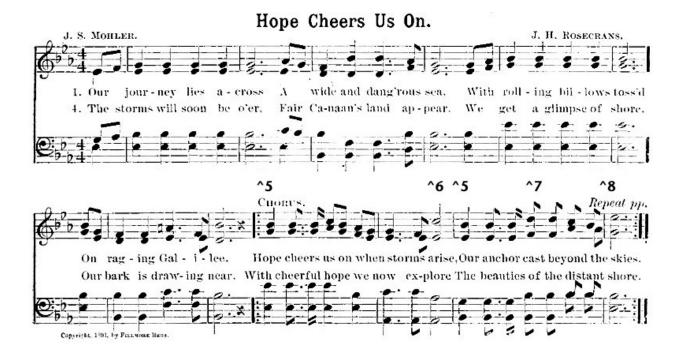
Copyright, 1888, by FILLMORE BROS.

126. F. A. Fillmore, Joy among the Angels, "There is a joy in heaven"



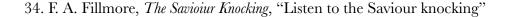
§6. Frederick A. Fillmore, Heart Songs: A New Collection for Sunday Schools (1893)

14. J. H. Rosecrans, Hope Cheers Us On, "Our journey lies"



20. F. A. Fillmore, "Go and Work for Jesus"



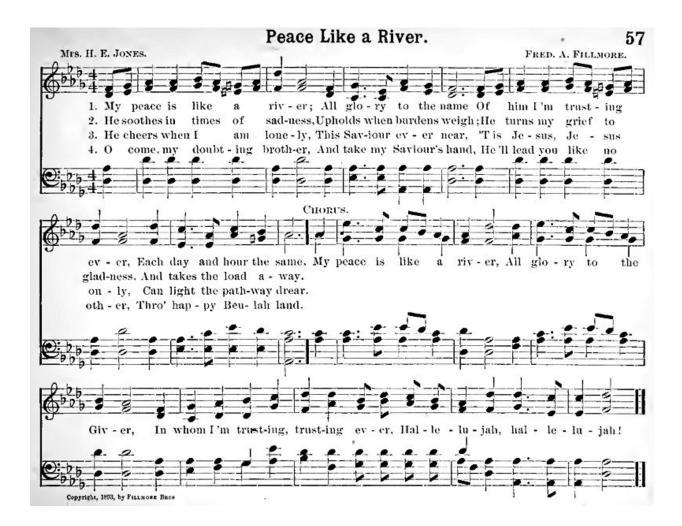


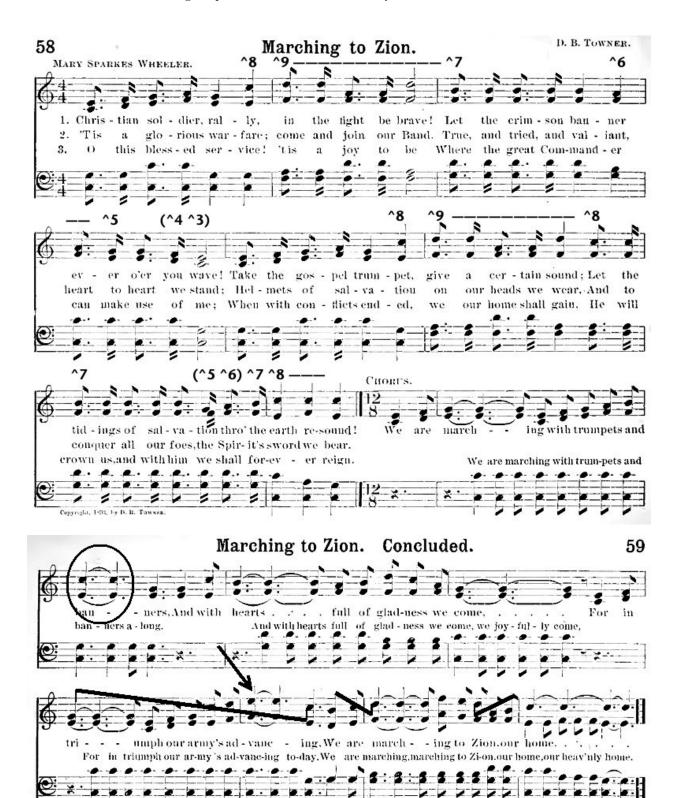


47. J. H. Fillmore, "Beneath His wing I safely rest"



57. F. A. Fillmore, "My peace is like a river"





58. D. B. Towner, Marching to Zion, "Christian soldier, rally"

62. Charles H. Gabriel, "Praise the Lord whose loving kindness"

A well-managed larger form where the repetitions of "Praise the Lord" gradually rise over the course of the hymn, which closes emphatically in the upper register.

62 Praise the Lord. Rev. WM. APPEL. CHAS. H. GABRIEL 1. Praise the Lord, whose loving kindness endeth never-more. Praise the Lord, (praise the Lord,) Praise the 2. Praise the Lord for he is good, his mer-cy doth endure, Prais e the Lord, (praise the Lord,)Praise the 3. Praise the Lord, his ev - er -last-ing grace is free to all, Praise the Lord, (praise the Lord,) Praise he 2 4 . X × 0-24 Lord; (praise the Lord;) Praise the Lord and sing the joy-ful an - them o'er and o'er. Praise the Lord : (praise the Lord :) Praise the Lord whose kind - ly prov - i- dence is ev er sure, Praise the Lord : (praise the lord ;) Praise the Lord, his ho - ly cov - e -nant shall nev - er fall, Praise the 1 1 Lord, (praise the Lord,)praise the Lord. (praise the Lord.) Ail the twinkling stars Lord, (praise the Lord,)praise the Lord. (praise the Lord.) All the sing - ers of Lord, (praise the Lord,)praise the Lord. (praise the Lord.) All the saints in heat .) Ail the twinkling stars, so beau - ti - ful, so the woods, so hap - py, ord.)All the saints in heav - en, glow-ing- ly ar-5 5 . 2 1 . Copyright, 1935, by Chass, H. GABRIEL. 1 63 Praise the Lord. Concluded. - 5 of gold - eu sun -shine, fill'd with life fair and bright, All the rays and light, Join in the sweet per-fum - ing flow - ers, and the li-the saints on earth, thro' Je - sus saved from sinlies white, Join in gay and light, All li in white, All and night, Join in rayed . 2 -1 -5 5 1 1 1 . 1 1 1 1 1 their might, Praise the Lord, (praise the Lord,)praise the Lord, (praise the their might, Praise the Lord, (praise the Lord,)praise the Lord, (praise the their might, Praise the Lord, (praise the Lord,)praise the Lord, (praise the ing joy-ful lays to him with all sing sing - ing joy- ful lays to him with all sing - ing joy- ful lays to him with all -0 . . -. . . - 0 X 22 1 1 2

78. F. A. Fillmore, "Tell the sweet story of Christ and his love"



86. F. A. Fillmore, "Joy, joy 'tis our Bible"

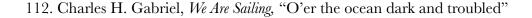


99. Charles H. Gabriel, "Marching on the heavenly way"



111. J. H. Fillmore, Send Me, "Master of the world's great harvest"







119. J. H. Rosecrans, "Behold! I stand at the door and knock"



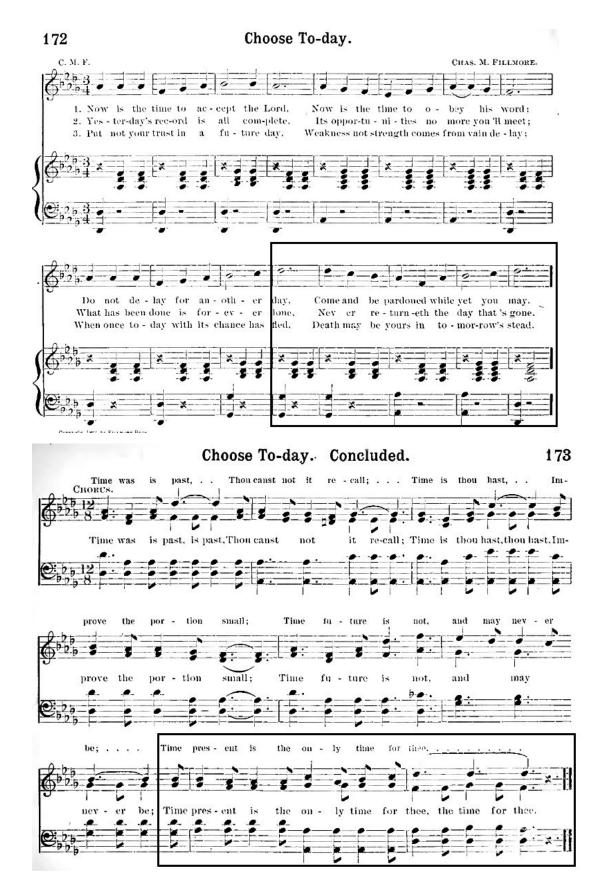
124. F. A. Fillmore, "Tell the story, children"



164. F. A. Fillmore, The Shepherd's Voice, "Hark! I hear a loving voice"



172. Charles M. Fillmore, Choose Today, "Now is the time to accept the Lord"





181. F. A. Fillmore, "O praise the Lord"