

Listen to This!

A Not So Universal Language



Tony Alonso

About the Presenter

Tony Alonso is a Latin Grammy-nominated composer of sacred music and a theologian whose work responds to the diverse needs of the contemporary church.

A Cuban-American Roman Catholic, Tony's compositions embrace multicultural musical expressions and reflect a commitment to strong ritual song. His music appears in compilations and hymnals across Christian denominations throughout the world. Tony's *Mass of Joy and Peace* is one of the most widely sung Mass settings in the United States. In 2015, his compositional work was recognized with an invitation to compose the responsorial psalm for the first Mass Pope Francis celebrated in the United States. In 2020, he was nominated for a Latin Grammy for his groundbreaking album *Caminemos con Jesús*.

Tony's scholarly work lies at the intersection of liturgical theology and cultural studies. In 2019, he was awarded the Catherine Mowry LaCugna Award for new scholars for the best academic essay in the field of theology within the Roman Catholic tradition by the Catholic Theological Society of America. His book *Commodified Communion: Eucharist, Consumer Culture, and the Practice of Everyday Life* was awarded the 2021 Hispanic Theological Initiative Book Prize. Tony is Aquinas Associate Professor of Theology and Culture at Candler School of Theology at Emory University where he also serves as the inaugural Director of Catholic Studies.

A HOUSE OF PRAYER

Tony Alonso

Refrain

Let this be a house of prayer, shel-ter of God's love and
care, shaped in - to a house of liv - ing stones
by the hands of Christ, our cor - ner - stone.

The Refrain consists of three measures of music in 4/4 time, key of B-flat major. The melody is written on a single staff. The lyrics are: "Let this be a house of prayer, shel-ter of God's love and care, shaped in - to a house of liv - ing stones by the hands of Christ, our cor - ner - stone."

Let this be a house of prayer for all peo - ple.

The Refrain continues with two more measures of music. The melody is written on a single staff. The lyrics are: "Let this be a house of prayer for all peo - ple."

Verse (response to Cantor)

Let this be a house of prayer.

The Verse consists of two measures of music in 4/4 time, key of B-flat major. The melody is written on a single staff. The lyrics are: "Let this be a house of prayer."

prayer, shel - ter of God's love and care.

The Verse continues with two more measures of music. The melody is written on a single staff. The lyrics are: "prayer, shel - ter of God's love and care."

Let this be a house of prayer for all peo - ple,

The Verse continues with two more measures of music. The melody is written on a single staff. The lyrics are: "Let this be a house of prayer for all peo - ple,"

for all peo - ple, for all peo - ple.

The Verse concludes with two final measures of music. The melody is written on a single staff. The lyrics are: "for all peo - ple, for all peo - ple."

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IT WAS GOOD

Tony Alonso

1st time: Solo

2nd time: All



And God saw that it was good. And
And God saw that they were good. And
And God saw that she was good. And
And God saw that he was good. And
And God sees that we are good. And



God saw that it was good.
God saw that they were good.
God saw that she was good.
God saw that he was good.
God sees that we are good.

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EMMAUS

Based on Luke 24:13–35

Words and Music by
Tony Alonso

The musical score is written in 4/4 time with a key signature of one flat (B-flat). It consists of three staves of music. The first staff contains the lyrics 'In the break - ing of the bread we have'. The second staff contains the lyrics 'known you, O Lord. By your word have we been led'. The third staff contains the lyrics 'to the break-ing of the bread.' and ends with a double bar line. The melody is simple and melodic, using eighth and quarter notes with some rests and ties.

In the break - ing of the bread we have
known you, O Lord. By your word have we been led
to the break-ing of the bread.

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PRAISE BE TO YOU

Based on *Canticle of the Creatures*
Francis of Assisi, 1181–1226

Words and Music by
Tony Alonso

Verses 1–4

Solo: 1. Praised be you, in all your creatures, (*Response*)

Response



through Brother Sun, our radiant light. (*Response*)
Praised be you, through Sister Moon, (*Response*)
and through the stars you formed them bright. (*Response, then Refrain*)

Solo: 2. Praised be you, through Brother Wind, (*Response*)
through whom you give creation life. (*Response*)
Praised be you, through Sister Water, (*Response*)
useful, flowing, pure and clear. (*Response, then Refrain*)

Solo: 3. Praised be you, through Brother Fire,
through whom you light the dark of night. (*Response*)
Praised be you, through Mother Earth, (*Response*)
who governs and sustains all life. (*Response, then Refrain*)

Solo: 4. Praised be you, through those who pardon, (*Response*)
your instruments of love and peace. (*Response*)
Praised be you, through Sister Death, (*Response*)
from whom no living thing escapes. (*Response, then Refrain*)

Refrain



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FROM THE MANY, MAKE US ONE

Gabe Huck

Tony Alonso

Verses

Cantor *Assembly*

To this ta-ble now we

come. From the man-y, make us

one. To this ta-ble now we

come. From the man-y, make us

Refrain

one. When we sing and when we cry, as we

live and as we die: To this ta - ble now we

come. From the man - y, make us one.

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HERE I AM

Psalm 40
Adapt. T.A.

Tony Alonso

The musical score is written on four staves in 4/4 time, using a treble clef and a key signature of two flats (B-flat and E-flat). The lyrics are: 'Here I am, here I am, I come to do your will.' The melody consists of quarter and eighth notes, with some phrases repeated. The first staff contains the first two measures of the first phrase. The second staff contains the next two measures. The third staff contains the first two measures of the second phrase. The fourth staff contains the final two measures, ending with a double bar line.

Here I am, here I am, I
come to do your will.
Here I am, here I am, I
come to do your will.

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WILL THE CIRCLE BE UNBROKEN?

Tony Alonso



1. Will the cir - cle be un - bro - ken?
2. Will the words our God has spo - ken
3. Here the bod - y, blessed and bro - ken,



Will the pow'r of death pre - vail?
be re - vised or be ig - nored?
and the blood of Christ out - poured



Will the voic - es seek - ing jus - tice
Will the love that made and formed us
is the on - ly food of free - dom



be re - ject - ed and grow frail?
be re - ject - ed for the sword?
for the ser - vants of the Lord.



Will re - venge re - place for - give-ness?
Will the God who cries, "For - give-ness
Here the sto - ries shared at ta - ble



Will our pride re - place God's peace?
is the on - ly way to peace,"
call us all to peace - ful ways:



Will the in - no - cents be vic - tims
be blocked out by cries of an - ger?
show us Christ in all cre - a - tion,



and the vi - o - lence in - crease?
Will the fight - ing ev - er cease?
show us love's the on - ly way.

BE MY HANDS AND FEET

Mary Louise Bringle

ANDERSON
Tony Alonso

The musical score is written on four staves in treble clef, with a key signature of three sharps (F#, C#, G#) and a 3/4 time signature. The melody consists of eighth and quarter notes, with some phrases spanning across bar lines. The lyrics are printed below the notes.

See my hands and feet, said Je - sus,
love a - ris-en from the grave.
Be my hands and feet, said Je - sus,
live as ones I died to save.

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GLORY TO GOD

Glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God in the
high - est, and on earth peace, and on earth peace,
peace to peo - ple of good will.
Last time
A - men, a - men.

The musical score for 'GLORY TO GOD' is written on four staves. The first three staves contain the main melody with lyrics. The first staff starts with a treble clef, a key signature of one flat (Bb), and a time signature of 6/8. The second staff continues the melody. The third staff includes a change in time signature to 3/8 and then back to 6/8. The fourth staff is marked 'Last time' and repeats the final phrase 'A - men, a - men.' with the same time signature changes.

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LITANY OF MARY LETANÍA DE LA SANTÍSIMA VIRGEN MARÍA

Based on the Litany of Loretto
Refrain from LOURDES HYMN

Verse Response

O - ra pro no - bis.

The musical score for the Verse Response is on a single staff with a treble clef, a key signature of one flat (Bb), and a time signature of 3/4. The melody consists of four notes: G4, A4, Bb4, and A4.

Refrain / Estribillo

A - ve, a - ve, a - ve Ma - ri - a.
A - ve, a - ve Ma - ri - a.

The musical score for the Refrain / Estribillo consists of two staves. The first staff has a treble clef, a key signature of one flat (Bb), and a time signature of 4/4. The melody is: G4 (half), A4 (quarter), Bb4 (quarter), A4 (half), G4 (half), F4 (half), E4 (half), D4 (half). The second staff continues the melody: G4 (half), A4 (quarter), Bb4 (quarter), A4 (half), G4 (half), F4 (half), E4 (half), D4 (half).

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LETANÍA A LA MADRE DE LAS AMÉRICAS

Litany to the Mother of the Americas

Tony Alonso

Respuesta en las Estrofas / Verse Response

Cantor *Todos / All*

Rue - ga por no - so - tros.
O - ra pro no - bis.

Estribillo / Refrain

Cantor *Todos / All*

Rue - ga por no - so - tros.
O - ra pro no - bis.

Rue - ga por no - so - tros.
O - ra pro no - bis.

Cantor *Todos / All*

Rue - ga por no - so - tros.
O - ra pro no - bis.

Rue - ga por no - so - tros.
O - ra pro no - bis.

Cantor

A - ho - ra y en la ho - ra de nues - tra muer - te. A - mén.
Now and at the hour of our death. A - men.

Todos / All

A - ho - ra y en la ho - ra de nues - tra muer - te. A - mén.
Now and at the hour of our death. A - men.

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VAYAN POR EL MUNDO ENTERO *Go Out to the Whole World*

Basado en Marcos 16:15
Based on Mark 16:15

Tony Alonso

Estribillo / Refrain

Two staves of music in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The melody is simple and repetitive. The lyrics are written below the notes.

Va - yan por el mun - do en - te - ro
y pre - di-quen el E - van-ge - lio.

Respuesta en las Estrofas / Verse Response

Two staves of music. The first staff is for the Cantor (Cantor) and the second is for Todos / All. The melody is simple and repetitive. The lyrics are written below the notes.

Cantor *Todos / All*
Y pre-di-quen el E - van-ge - lio.

Refrain translation: *Go out to the whole world and proclaim the Gospel.*

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QUÉ ALEGRÍA CUANDO ME DIJERON *I Rejoiced When I Heard Them Say*

Basado en el Salmo 122(121)
Based on Psalm 122

Tony Alonso

Estribillo / Refrain

Two staves of music in B-flat major (two flats) and 4/4 time. The melody is simple and repetitive. The lyrics are written below the notes.

Qué a - le - grí - a cuan-do me di - je - ron:
“Va-mos a la ca - sa del Se - ñor”.

Respuesta en las Estrofas / Verse Response

Two staves of music. The first staff is for the Cantor (Cantor) and the second is for Todos / All. The melody is simple and repetitive. The lyrics are written below the notes.

Cantor *Todos / All*
Va-mos a la ca - sa del Se - ñor.

Refrain translation: *I rejoiced when I heard them say, “Let us go to the house of the Lord.”*

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CAMINEMOS CON JESÚS

Let Us Walk with Jesus

Tony Alonso

Respuesta en las Estrofas / Verse Response

Cantor *Todos / All*

Ca-mi-ne-mos con Je - sús.

Estribillo / Refrain

Ca-mi-ne-mos con Je - sús, ca-mi-
ne-mos con su cruz, ca-mi-ne-mos el ca-mi-
no que él i-lu-mi-na con su luz.
As com-pan - ions on the way,
let us live the words we pray.
With the ones the world has turned a-way,
ca-mi - ne - mos con Je - sús.

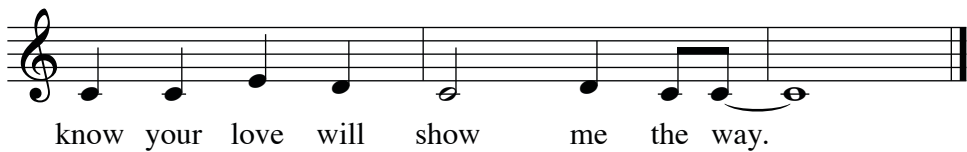
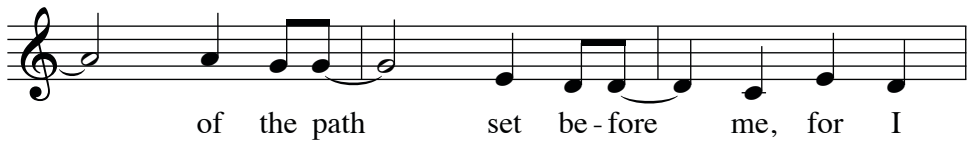
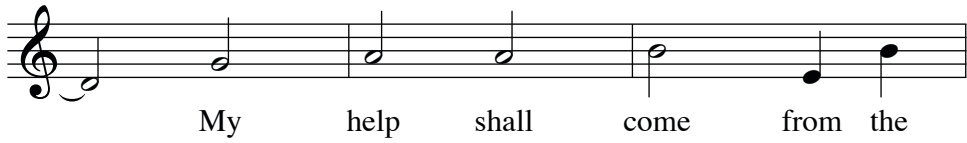
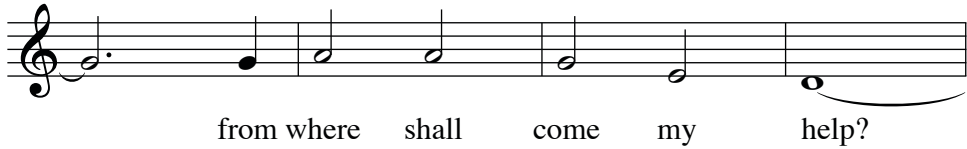
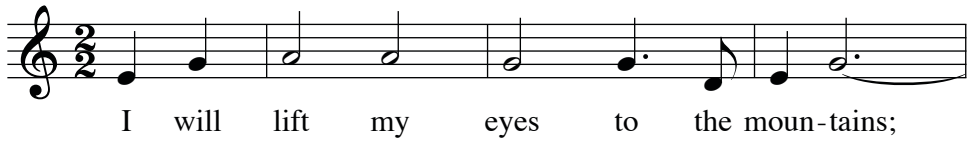
Translation of Spanish Refrain: *Let us walk with Jesus, let us walk with his cross, let us walk the path illuminated by his light.*

Traducción del Estribillo en Inglés: *Como compañeros en el camino, vivamos las palabras que oramos. Con todos los que han sido rechazados por el mundo, caminemos...*

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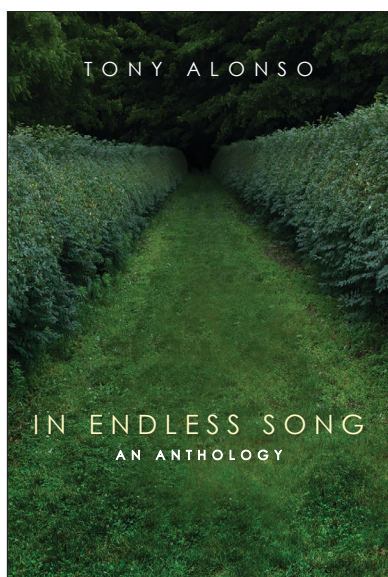
I WILL LIFT MY EYES

Tony Alonso



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Music From Tony Alonso



In Endless Song is a compilation of some of Tony's finest works gathered into one collection for the express purpose of facilitating personal prayer and reflection. These are some of Tony's most beloved pieces—songs that reflect most deeply his spirituality and his voice as a songwriter.

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Caminemos con Jesús es una celebración litúrgica de la belleza, pasión y vitalidad de la música cubana. Fusionando melodías líricas latinas y ritmos africanos complejos en una forma distintiva de llamada y respuesta, en este novedoso proyecto Tony Alonso imagina creativamente y fielmente los ritos, tiempos y textos litúrgicos a través del prisma de su propia herencia cubana. Ya sea acompañado simplemente por el piano o la guitarra, o por un conjunto más elaborado, estas piezas encontrarán un hogar alegre en comunidades hispanoparlantes, angloparlantes y bilingües que buscan acompañarse en su caminar con Jesús durante el año litúrgico.

Caminemos con Jesús is a liturgical celebration of the beauty, passion, and vitality of Cuban music. Fusing lyrical Spanish melodies and complex African rhythms in a distinctive call-and-response form, in this groundbreaking project, Tony Alonso creatively and faithfully imagines the liturgical rites, seasons, and texts through the prism of his own Cuban heritage. Whether accompanied simply on piano or guitar, or by a more elaborate ensemble, these pieces will find a joyful home in Spanish, English, and bilingual communities seeking to accompany one another in their walk with Jesus throughout the liturgical year.

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