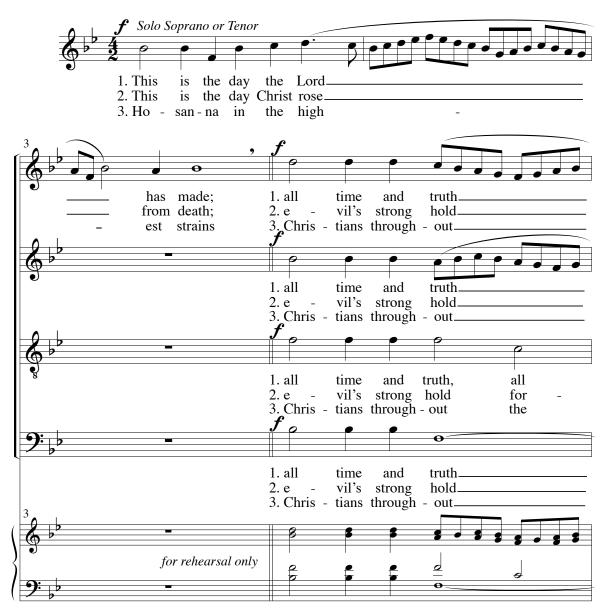
THIS IS THE DAY THE LORD HAS MADE

Text based on a hymn by Isaac Watts, 1674-1748

Melchior Franck, ca. 1579-1639 from Musikalischer Bergkreyen, Nuremberg, 1602 Edited by Richard Proulx



NOTES: Melchior Franck was born in the German town of Zittau and became a student of Adam Gumpelzhaimer in Augsburg. Moving to Nuremberg for a time, Franck studied with Hans Leo Hassler, who passed on his knowledge of the Netherlands motet-style as well as Venetian antiphonal writing. From about 1603 he served as kapellmeister to the Prince of Coburg and, despite the ravages of the Thirty Years War, produced a vast output: more than forty collections of motets, thirteen secular vocal collections, and four sets of instrumental dances. In his motets, Franck took care to provide Latin texts with German translations; his goal was to take simple chorales and psalm-tunes and to "elaborate them for the glory of God."

This Is the Day the Lord Has Made is taken from the collection Musikalischer Bergkreyen, published in Nuremburg in 1602. It is based on a sixteenth-century folk song "So wünsch ich ihr ein gute Nacht"; Franck's setting (marked "in contrapuncto colorato") is unusual in that each verse is introduced by solo soprano or tenor.



