

Hymn: How Great Thou Art

"How Great Thou Art" was based on a Swedish poem written by Carl Boberg in 1885. Boberg wrote the poem while walking home from church one evening in Mönsterås, Sweden, when he was inspired by the sight of the beautiful countryside and the sound of the wind and waves.

The original version of the hymn was titled "O Store Gud" (O Great God) and was published in the first edition of Boberg's book *Songs by the Way* in 1886, which was a collection of nine religious songs Boberg had composed. The lyrics, literally translated to English, said:

*When I the world consider
Which Thou has made by Thine almighty Word
And how the webb of life Thou wisdom guideth
And all creation feedeth at Thy board.
Then doth my soul burst forth in song of praise
Oh, great God, Oh, great God!*

The poem was first translated into English in 1911 by Stuart K. Hine, and published in a collection of his own songs called *My Songs to Jesus*. However, the most common English version of the hymn is based on a translation by English missionary George Beverly Shea. Shea's version was first published in 1955 in a collection of his own songs called *Southland Songs*.

How Great Thou Art has been recorded by many artists and is a popular choice for funerals and other religious occasions. The hymn was inducted into the Grammy Hall of Fame in 2004 and was ranked number one on a list of the top 50 Catholic songs of all time by the Catholic News Service in 2013.

The hymn is a reminder of the greatness and glory of God, as the lyrics focus on God's greatness and majesty, and express awe at His creation. The hymn reminds us that despite the trials and tribulations of life, God is always there for us. It is an expression of hope and faith in the midst of difficult times and is a beautiful hymn that has brought comfort and hope to many people over the years.

How Great Thou Art

Stuart Wesley Keene Hine, 1953

Swedish Folk Melody

$\text{♩} = 80$

1. O Lord my God, when I in awe - some won - der Con - sid - er
2. When through the woods and for - est glades I wan - der And hear the
3. And when I think that God, his Son not spar - ing, Sent him to
4. When Christ shall come with shout of ac - cla - ma - tion And take me

all the worlds thy hands have made, I see the stars, I hear the roll - ing
birds sing sweet - ly in the trees, When I look down from loft - y mount - ain
die, I scarce can take it in, That on the cross, my bur - den glad - ly
home, what joy shall fill my heart! Then I shall bow in hum - ble a - dor -

Refrain
thun - der, Thy power through - out the un - i - verse dis - played:
grand - eur, And hear the brook and feel the gen - tle breeze: Then sings my
bear - ing, He bled and died to take a - way my sin:
- a - tion, And there pro - claim, "My God, how great thou art!"

soul, my Sav - ior God, to thee: How great thou art! How great thou art! Then sings my

soul, my Sav - ior God, to thee: How great thou art! How great thou art!