

V. William B. Bradbury (1816-1868)



William B. Bradbury

i. His Life

1. William was born at York County, Maine on October 6, 1816. Born into a good family, the Bradbury's were a Christian family and gave William a loving home. However, his early years were spent on the family farm working hard to help the family. William loved music and would spend his spare time studying and practicing music as much as he could.
2. In 1830 his parents moved to Boston, where he saw and heard the first time a piano and organ, as well as various other instruments. This influence would lead him to devote his life to the study, teaching and writing of music.⁵²
3. Bradbury began attending Dr. Lowell Mason's singing classes and at length was admitted into Mason's celebrated Bowdoin Street Church choir. Mason proved to be a valuable and steadfast friend.
4. At the age of twenty Bradbury was still singing in Mason's choir, when one evening between practices, Mason laid his hand on his shoulder, and said "William, I have an application for a teacher at Machias, Maine, to teach three large singing schools, besides private pupils, and I believe you are just the man for the place." Bradbury sent his terms, and was accepted to the position, which he held for a year and a half.⁵³

⁵² *Biographies of Gospel Song and Hymn Writers*, J. H. Hall, 1914, Pg. 23.

⁵³ *""*, J. H. Hall, 1914, Pg. 23.

5. Upon returning to Boston, Bradbury married his sweetheart, and removed to St. Johns, New Brunswick. Here people did not take sufficient interest in his work, and he returned to Boston. Then came a call to take charge of the music of the First Baptist Church of Brooklyn. Lowell Mason sent with him a letter of introduction. Upon taking charge of the organ at the Brooklyn church there was some opposition to the organ being there among the members, but Bradbury took pains to play it so well, and in such good taste, that he speedily won favour of its use.
6. After one year's work here, the important era of his life's work began. Bradbury took charge of the choir and organ of the Baptist Tabernacle, New York City, and started a singing class for the young. This first class was visited by many superintendents and other interested in Sunday-schools, who were uniformly delighted with what they saw and heard, and the originator of the movement soon found himself engaged in many similar schools in various parts of the city. The classes became very popular, for instance, in the Spring City Church there was a class of over 600 children. From these schools sprang the celebrated "Juvenile Musical Festivals," as they were called. These became a prominent feature among the musical events of the city.
7. The annual festival was a thrilling sight itself. A thousand children were seated on a gradually rising platform. About two-thirds of the class were girls, dressed uniformly in white with a white wreath and blue sash. The boys were dressed in jackets with collards turned over, something in Byron style. When all were ready, a chord was struck on the piano – a thousand children instantly arose, presenting a sight that can be far more easily imagined than described.
8. Bradbury improved every occasion of these large gatherings to impress upon the public the necessity of musical instruction in the public schools, and in time he had the satisfaction of seeing music taught as a regular study in the public schools of New York.
9. While he was teaching among the children, he would occasionally compose a song for them to their delight. He decided to make a book, "*The Young Choir*" being the result. This was in 1841, and being an inexperienced writer, he got Dr. Hastings to correct his music. The book was a success, and others followed.

10. In 1847, Bradbury took a trip to Europe to study with some masters there, on the second of July he took passage to England, accompanied by his wife and daughter. He remained in London for some weeks and made good use of the time while there. He arrived in Germany on September 11th, where he made arrangements to begin his studies without delay.
11. While in Europe he visited many public and private schools and familiarized himself thoroughly with all the German methods of popular musical instruction.
12. After his return to New York, in 1849, he devoted his entire time to teaching, conducting conventions, composing, and editing music books.
13. In 1851, in connection with his brother E. Gr. Bradbury, he commenced the manufacture of the Bradbury piano, which at one time were quite popular.
14. The church and vocalist of this country owe much to Bradbury, Mason and Root, a.k.a. The Great Trio, for their efforts to create and improve the music of the church and the country.
15. It is said that Bradbury's melodies had an easy, natural flow, and his harmonies were simple and natural, and many of his hymn-tunes and gospel songs were among the best that American writers have produced. According to J. H. Hall, Bradbury edited 59 books of sacred and secular music, a large part of which contained his own works.
16. In reference to his personal life we have the following information:
 - a. In the rear of one Bradbury's New York warehouses was a small office where he often went to renew his strength and mount up with wings as eagles. Whenever he had to leave his house without sufficient prayer time, it was said, he would go to this private sanctuary and spend time in his devotions.
 - b. Nor did he allow business to intrude on this habit. His much loved Bible occupied a prominent place on the table and was well worn and filled with marked passages that had illuminated in his own experience. In his private journal he wrote, "the 37th Psalm has been to me a never-failing source of comfort and

consolation. My little Bible frequently opens to it of its own accord. The 27th is also a favorite when the enemy comes in like a flood.”

17. Bradbury suffered from Tuberculosis the last few years of his life. A few weeks before his death, he said to Theodore Seward, “I long to be free from this evil body, which does so much to drag me down. I feel that I want to do right, that I want to love my Saviour, and act to please him, but this busy brain and hasty nature lead me oftentimes to things that are contrary to the real feelings of my heart.”
18. William B. Bradbury died at his residence in Montclair, NJ on January 8, 1868, leaving a widow, four daughters and a son. ⁵⁴

ii. His Hymnals and Song Books

1. *Young Choir, 1841*
2. *Psalmist, 1844*
3. *New York Choralist, 1847*
4. *Metropolitan Glee Book, 1852*
5. *The Jubilee (New York, Mason Brothers, 1858)*
6. *Golden Chain, 1861*
7. *The Golden Shower, 1862*
8. *Devotional Hymn and Tune Book, 1864*
9. *Plymouth Collection, 1865*
10. *Golden Hymns, 1866*
11. *Songs of Praise, 1867*
12. *Fresh Laurels, 1867*
13. *The Temple Choir, 1867*
14. *Bright Jewels, 1869*
15. *The Victory, 1869*

⁵⁴ *Biographies of Gospel Song and Hymn Writers*, J. H. Hall, 1914, Pg. 23.

iii. His Tunes

1. The Love of God That Boundless Sea (Wirth) – #98 in PHSS
2. Thy Matchless Love We Sing (Jesus Ever Near) – #133 in PHSS
3. There is No Name So Sweet on Earth – #146 in PHSS
4. Holy Bible, Book Divine! (Aletta) – #174 in PHSS
5. Lay Not This Book Aside! (Wardlaw) – #189 in PHSS
6. A Dying Saviour (Zephyr) – #274 in PHSS
7. 'Tis Finished! The Messiah Dies (Olive's Brow) – #333 in PHSS
8. Just As I Am – #375 in PHSS
9. No More a Stranger (Helena) – #413 in PHSS
10. Give Me the Wings of Faith (Bingham) – #430 in PHSS
11. He Brought Salvation Nigh (Caddo) – #450 in PHSS
12. The Solid Rock – #461 in PHSS
13. Saviour, Like a Shepherd Lead Us – #492 in PHSS
14. He Leadeth Me – #495 in PHSS
15. Preserve Me, O My God (Braden) – #512 in PHSS
16. Never Be Afraid – #601 in PHSS
17. Sweet Hour of Prayer! – #711 in PHSS
18. Hast with the Bread of Life – #861 in PHSS
19. Behold He Comes! – #923 in PHSS
20. Let Thy Kingdom, Saviour, Come! – #939 in PHSS

iv. His Hymns and Songs

1. Jesus Loves Me – #828 (Refrain) in PHSS
2. Jesus Paid it All (*Nothing either great or small*)
3. Let the Gospel Trumpet Sound

W. Charles H. Gabriel (1856- 1932)



Charles H. Gabriel

i. His Life

1. Charles H. Gabriel was born in Wilton, Iowa, and raised on a farm. His father led singing schools in their home, and because of this young Charles developed a love for music because of this. It's said that young Charles taught himself to play the family's reed organ.⁵⁵ At the age of sixteen he began teaching singing in schools, following in his father footsteps, and soon was an acclaimed as a fine teacher and composer of music.
2. In 1887, Gabriel moved to California and served as a Sunday school music director at the Grace Methodist Church in San Francisco. While working at Grace, he was asked to write a song for a missions meeting. He wrote "*Send the Light*", which became his first "sold" song.
3. Gabriel later moved to Chicago, and in 1912 began working with Homer Rodeheaver's publishing company.
4. Gabriel edited 35 gospel song books, 8 Sunday school song books, seven books for male choruses, six books for ladies, ten children's song books, nineteen collections of anthems, 23 choir cantatas, 41 Christmas cantatas, 10 children's cantatas, and books on musical instruction.
5. NOTE: Gabriel is a good example of the commercialization of gospel music. Gabriel among others worked for publishers to

⁵⁵ http://www.hymntime.com/tch/bio/g/a/b/gabriel_ch.htm

produce as many song booklets, and books for the gospel community.

6. Gabriel worked for the Homer Rodeheaver Co., Hope Publishers, and E. O. Excell Publishing Co.
7. He composed hundreds of tunes and texts, at times using pseudonyms such as Charlotte G. Homer.
8. The total number of his compositions is estimated around 7,000.
9. Gabriel's songs became widely circulated through the Billy Sunday crusades.
10. Gabriel died in Hollywood, CA on September 14, 1932.
11. His Pseudonyms
 - a. T. R. Allen
 - b. C. D. Emerson (According to the Library of Congress)⁵⁶
 - c. H. A. Henry
 - d. Jennie Crawford Goodspeed (Possible)
 - e. Charlotte G. Homer (see list of songs below)
 - f. S. B. Jackson
 - g. Jennie Ree
 - h. J. C. Williams

ii. His Hymns and Songs

1. Tunes
 - a. All Glory to God – #247 in PHSS
 - b. It Was His Love – #423 in PHSS
 - c. Since Jesus Came into My Heart – #443 in PHSS

⁵⁶ http://www.hymntime.com/tch/bio/g/a/b/gabriel_ch.htm

- d. Just When I Need Him Most – #464 in PHSS
- e. His Eye is on the Sparrow – #505 in PHSS
- f. Whom Having Not Seen I Love – #582 in PHSS
- g. Higher Ground – #548 in PHSS
- h. My Father Watches Over Me – #672 in PHSS
- i. Happy the Home, When God is There (tune: Katherine) – #806 in PHSS
- j. As a Volunteer – #851 in PHSS
- k. Are You Ready for the Coming? – #908 in PHSS
- l. All Hail, Immanuel! – #948 in PHSS

2. Hymns and Songs

- a. His Grace is Sufficient for Me – #88 in PHSS
- b. My Saviour's Love – #137 in PHSS
- c. He is So Precious to Me – #159 in PHSS
- d. I Will Not Forget Thee – #406 in PHSS
- e. He Lifted Me – #441 in PHSS (*writing as Charlotte G. Homer*)
- f. More Like the Master – #536 in PHSS (See history below song)
- g. I Never Will Cease to Love Him – #585 in PHSS
- h. Sail On! – #752 in PHSS
- i. Send the Light – #858 in PHSS (See history below song)
- j. Awakening Chorus – #949 in PHSS
- k. Oh, That Will Be Glory – #970 in PHSS

X. Samuel W. Beazley (1873-1944)



Samuel W. Beazley

i. His Life

1. Samuel W. Beazley, though not a Baptist, was a very active producer of gospel music. He compiled and edited many collections for a variety of denominational and commercial publishers. One of the most significant of his compilations was one entitled, *Living Hymns*, developed with four collaborators and published in 1923 by Judson Press. The compilation only contained 120 hymns total. One thing that is interesting to note is that of the title page of the work. The statement on the title page reads: “*There is no ‘jazz’ in this song book*”, down the left margin, it reads “*This is a collection of high-grade songs.*”⁵⁷
2. Beazley was born in Sparta, VA in 1873. He wrote well over 4,000 songs, and taught in singing schools for a decade, as well as 5 yrs. at the Shenandoah College in Winchester, VA.
3. Samuel Beazley died of Tuberculosis in Chicago, at the Chicago Municipal Sanitarium on September 16, 1944. He was inducted into the Gospel Music Hall of Fame in 1992 for his contributions that he made to gospel music.
4. Besides writing many tunes, Beazley was also a lyricist of hymns and songs.

ii. His Songs and Hymns

1. Tunes

⁵⁷ *I Will Sing the Wondrous Story...*, by David W. Music & Paul A. Richardson, Mercer Univ. Press, 2018, pg. 403.

- a. Glory, Glory – #227 in PHSS
 - b. Jesus Paid It All – #424 in PHSS
 - c. All the Way Over – #508 in PHSS
 - d. My Heart, O God, Be Wholly Thine – #562 in PHSS
 - e. For Jesus' Sake – #686 in PHSS
 - f. Answer the Captain Divine – #688 in PHSS
 - g. Join in Exultation – #950 in PHSS
2. Lyrics
- a. Build on the Rock
 - b. Do Not Be Discouraged
 - c. Far Away in the Depths of My Soul
 - d. Go Forth, Ye Christian Workers
 - e. God's Promises Are Sure Indeed
 - f. God's Redeemed Are Marching
 - g. Hallelujah, Christ Our Saviour
 - h. It Was Matchless Love That Found Me
 - i. Lo! What a Cloud of Witnesses – #684 in PHSS
 - j. The Love of Jesus, Oh, How Sweet
 - k. Praise Him – #61 in PHSS
 - l. Praise Him, O Praise Ye Jehovah
 - m. Rejoice in His Great Name – #635 in PHSS (See history below song)
 - n. Tell Me More of Jesus
 - o. We Are Pilgrims on Our Journey
 - p. When the Ransomed Get Home – #959 in PHSS
 - q. With Transgressions All Forgiven