

You Raise Me Up

Rolf Løvland (1955–)

You Raise Me Up” was composed by Rolf Løvland, a very successful and internationally regarded Norwegian composer. Born in Kristiansand, in southern Norway, he formed his first band at the early age of nine before studying music at the Music Conservatory in Kristiansand and receiving his Masters degree in music at the Norwegian Institute of Music in Oslo. He then became one of Norway’s most successful popular songwriters, earning a Norwegian Grammy Award and completing more than sixty national hits. He was also a two-time winner of the international Eurovision Song Contest in 1985 and 1995, and a four-time winner of Norway’s Eurovision Song Contest.

Together with the Irish violinist Fionuala Sherry, he formed the group Secret Garden, combining a mixture of Nordic, Celtic and New Age music and sounds. Their debut album in 1996, *Songs From A Secret Garden*, became an immediate best-seller in Norway and internationally. Subsequent albums provided Løvland the freedom to explore a wide musical landscape of sounds.

Løvland, the group’s composer, producer and keyboardist, originally wrote “You Raise Me Up” as an instrumental piece and titled it “Silent Story.” The melody is based on fragments of the traditional Irish tune “Londonderry Air,” which is best known as the melody of the 1910 song “Danny Boy.” Løvland eventually approached Irish novelist and songwriter Brendan Graham to write words to the song. Graham’s books *The Whitest Flower* and *The Element of Fire*, his two best-selling novels, had

inspired both Rolf Løvland and Fionuala Sherry. Brendan immediately heard a story upon hearing the melody and proceeded to write lyrics titled “You Raise Me Up,” drawing inspiration from his first book, *The Whitest Flower*.

Originally released on the 2001 Secret Garden album, *Once in a Red Moon*, with the vocals sung by Irish singer Brian Kennedy, “You Raise Me Up” quickly became popular in both Ireland and Norway. Also recorded by Daniel O’Donnell in 2003, his recording became well known throughout Ireland and the United Kingdom.

In 2003, Josh Groban was chosen by David Foster to record it, establishing Groban’s career and the tremendous popularity of the song in the United States and internationally. Groban’s recording was nominated for a 2005 Grammy award, and he sang it in many high profile events, including his appearances at Super Bowl XXXVIII, in a special NASA commemoration for the crew of the Space Shuttle Columbia disaster and with the African Children’s Choir on television shows. Heard in numerous versions throughout the world, the song was nominated for the Gospel Music Awards four times, including “Song of the Year.” Additionally, the version by the Christian group Selah went to No. 1 on Billboard’s Christian Charts.

The arrangement provided here is in the spirit of the original release, with the violin slowly sounding the melody reminiscent of an Irish air. This inspirational gem should be fully expressed in performance with careful attention to word rhythms, phrasing and dynamics.

15. You Raise Me Up

with optional violin*

Words and Music by **ROLF LØVLAND**
and **BRENDAN GRAHAM**
Arranged by **PATRICK M. LIEBERGEN**

NOTE: Begin at measure 8 for performance by voice and keyboard only.

Slowly, with great freedom

Musical score for the first system, measures 1-7. It includes a Violin part and an Accompaniment (ACCOMP.) part. The Violin part starts at measure 1 with a melody marked *mp*. The Accompaniment part starts at measure 1 with chords marked *p*.

Musical score for the second system, measures 8-14. Measure 8 is marked with a box containing the number 8 and the tempo instruction *In tempo* ($\text{♩} = \text{ca. } 60$). The Violin part starts at measure 8 with a melody marked *mf*. The Accompaniment part starts at measure 8 with chords marked *mf* and *p*.

* Violin part is on pages 117–118.

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mp

When I am down and oh, my soul so wea-ry, ——— when trou-bles

p

12

come and my heart bur-dened be, then I am still ——— and wait here in the

mf

mf

15

si - lence un-til you come and sit a while ——— with

mp

p

17

18

mf *f*

me. You raise me up so I can stand on

This system contains the first two staves of music. The top staff is a vocal line in treble clef with a key signature of two sharps (F# and C#). It begins with a quarter rest, followed by a quarter note G4, an eighth note A4, a quarter note B4, and a quarter note C5. The lyrics 'me. You raise me up so I can stand on' are written below. The bottom staff is a piano accompaniment in treble clef, consisting of a whole rest.

mf *f*

This system contains the piano accompaniment for the first system. It consists of two staves: a treble clef staff and a bass clef staff. The treble staff has a melodic line with eighth and quarter notes, and the bass staff has a supporting line with quarter and eighth notes. Dynamics markings *mf* and *f* are placed above the treble staff.

19

moun - tains. You raise me up to walk on storm - y

This system contains the second two staves of music. The top staff is a vocal line in treble clef. It begins with a quarter note G4, an eighth note A4, a quarter note B4, and a quarter note C5. The lyrics 'moun - tains. You raise me up to walk on storm - y' are written below. The bottom staff is a piano accompaniment in treble clef, consisting of a whole rest.

This system contains the piano accompaniment for the second system. It consists of two staves: a treble clef staff and a bass clef staff. The treble staff has a melodic line with eighth and quarter notes, and the bass staff has a supporting line with quarter and eighth notes.

21

mp

dim.

seas. I am strong when I am on your

This system contains the third two staves of music. The top staff is a vocal line in treble clef. It begins with a quarter note G4, an eighth note A4, a quarter note B4, and a quarter note C5. The lyrics 'seas. I am strong when I am on your' are written below. The bottom staff is a piano accompaniment in treble clef, consisting of a whole rest.

mp *dim.*

This system contains the piano accompaniment for the third system. It consists of two staves: a treble clef staff and a bass clef staff. The treble staff has a melodic line with eighth and quarter notes, and the bass staff has a supporting line with quarter and eighth notes. Dynamics markings *mp* and *dim.* are placed above the treble staff.

23

poco rit.

p

shoul - ders. _____ You raise me up to more than I _____ can

poco rit.

poco rit.

pp

26

25

a tempo

be.

a tempo

mf

a tempo

mf

27

29

Musical score for measures 29-31. The key signature is three sharps (F#, C#, G#). The vocal line begins with a triplet of eighth notes. The piano accompaniment consists of chords in the right hand and a moving bass line in the left hand. Dynamics include *f* (forte).

32

Musical score for measures 32-33. The vocal line has the lyrics "You raise me". The piano accompaniment continues with chords and a bass line. Dynamics include *mf* (mezzo-forte).

34

Musical score for measures 34-35. The vocal line has the lyrics "up so I can stand on moun - tains. You raise... me". The piano accompaniment features a strong *f* (forte) dynamic.

36

mf

up to walk on storm-y seas. I am strong when I am on your

mf

39

poco rit.

shoul - ders. You raise me up to more than I can

poco rit.

41

a tempo mp

42

f

be. You raise me up so I can stand on

a tempo mp *f*

43

moun - tains. You raise me up to walk on storm - y—

45

seas. I am strong when I am on your

47

shoul - ders. You raise me up to more than I can

49

mf

f

be. You raise me up so I can stand on

mf *f*

51

moun - tains.

You raise_ me up

to walk on storm - y —

53

seas.

I am strong

when I — am on — your

55 *rit. al fine* *mf*

shoul - ders. You raise me up to more than I can

rit. al fine *mf*

rit. al fine *mf*

57 *mp* *freely*

be. You raise me up to

mp *freely*

mp *freely* *p*

60 *p*

more than I can be.

p *pp*