Compassion

electric guitar
and voice

arrangement of a Shaker Hymn

Larry Polansky
1997
Compassion is, with a few minor exceptions, a literal transcription for solo electric guitar of the Canterbury (N.H.) Shaker SATB hymn of the same name, published in the 1908 Canterbury hymnal and reprinted in facsimile edition by Overlook Press, 1996. This arrangement was first performed by myself and Jody Diamond (voice) in August, 1997, in New York City on a concert organized by the pianist Thomas Bächli.

Although it might also be played on non-electric guitars, the right hand tapping parts (the “exceptions”) will probably work better on electric. In performance, I often play it once with just the bass and soprano parts, and then alternate the full solo guitar version with voice and guitar verses. These kinds of variations are left to the performers.

Larry Polansky
Lebanon, New Hampshire
Call the need-y children home, make a feast that they may share;

Not the worldly wise and whole need the Good Physician's care.

'Tis the mission of God's love to re-claim, re-store, re-deem.

Give full interest, joy and love, life and labor to this theme.

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