

## Our God Reigns

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### Abstract

*Our God Reigns* is an SATB choral composition with piano accompaniment that celebrates the sovereignty and victorious reign of God through a bright, energetic musical language. Set in D major and cast in a rounded binary form, the work unfolds in simple quadruple metre at an Allegretto tempo, creating an atmosphere of joyful proclamation suitable for both concert performance and congregational worship. The opening section introduces lively pentatonic gestures and syncopated homophony, establishing a rhythmic vitality that propels the choral entries. A contrasting middle section features an ostinato-driven texture and layered vocal writing that intensifies the sense of collective declaration. The return of the opening material restores structural unity while expanding harmonic colour and reaffirming the triumphant message. Through its interplay of homophonic clarity, occasional polyphonic exchange, and spirited rhythmic drive, *Our God Reigns* offers a concise yet compelling musical affirmation of divine victory and communal praise.

**Keywords:** Choral Worship Expression; Christian Proclamation; Harmonic Triadic Writing; Rhythmic Syncopation; SATB Sacred Music

## Introduction

Sacred choral composition in contemporary Africa continues to evolve as a vibrant site of theological expression, communal identity, and musical innovation. Within Christian worship traditions across the continent, choral music functions not only as an aesthetic practice but also as a medium for proclaiming faith, articulating collective hope, and reinforcing spiritual conviction (Amu, 2016). *Our God Reigns* emerges from this creative and devotional landscape, offering a concise yet compelling musical affirmation of divine sovereignty. Its SATB scoring, rhythmic vitality, and accessible harmonic language reflect the broader African choral idiom, where Western tonal structures are reinterpreted through local expressive sensibilities (Nzewi, 2010).

The work's rounded binary form, energetic melodic gestures, and interplay of homophonic and polyphonic textures align with the stylistic tendencies of modern Nigerian sacred composition, which often blends congregational clarity with concert-level sophistication (Ekwueme, 2004). Through its triumphant text, syncopated rhythmic drive, and bright tonal palette, *Our God Reigns* exemplifies how contemporary African composers continue to craft choral works that are both musically engaging and theologically resonant. In doing so, the piece contributes meaningfully to ongoing conversations on African Christian musical expression, liturgical creativity, and the evolving soundscape of twenty-first-century sacred art music.

## Our God Reigns

*Our God Reigns* is an SATB choral work with piano accompaniment, set in D major and shaped by a rounded binary form (A–B–A). Cast in simple quadruple metre and moving at an Allegretto tempo, the piece blends homophonic and occasional polyphonic textures, creating a sound world suitable for both concert performance and congregational worship. Its bright, triumphant character makes it particularly fitting for Easter celebrations or other occasions that emphasise Christ's victory. Lasting approximately two minutes and fifty seconds, the work offers a concise yet compelling musical statement.

The thematic core of the composition centres on the sovereignty and supremacy of God. Its text proclaims divine victory with repeated, energetic phrases such as “he reigns”, “raise the banner”, and “hallelujah”, echoing what Ingalls (2018) describes as the theological and emotional uplift characteristic of contemporary worship music. The lyrics affirm both communal and

personal triumph, expressing confidence in the victory achieved through Christ's death and resurrection. In this sense, the piece aligns with the long tradition of Christian song as a vehicle for praise, proclamation, and spiritual encouragement, a function well documented in studies of congregational music (Eskew & McElrath, 2008).

Section A opens with a lively piano introduction built on rapid pentatonic motion, followed by a syncopated homophonic chord that prepares the choir's entry. The choral writing employs a hocket-like exchange based on the tonic triad of D major, supported by a trotting rhythmic pattern in the piano. A call-and-response texture emerges between the soprano and alto lines, with the tenor and bass voices answering and reinforcing the opening material.

Section B begins after a short interlude, where the bass introduces a four-bar ostinato. This recurring pattern is then taken up by the tenor and alto voices, creating a layered rhythmic build-up. The soprano entry functions as a lead point, carrying the text that reasserts the central message: God reigns, victory belongs to Him, and He has conquered the world. This section heightens the sense of proclamation and reinforces the theological centre of the work.

The final return of Section A brings a recapitulation of the opening material, again grounded in the tonic triad but expanded through a progression that moves from I to IV to V. The hocket technique reappears, maintaining structural unity. A brief codetta of homophonic chords leads the music to a climactic conclusion, closing the piece with a confident and celebratory flourish. Throughout, syncopation plays a prominent role, shaping the rhythmic vitality of the work, while the interplay of homophonic and occasional polyphonic textures adds variety and expressive depth.

# Our God Reigns!

by: 'Doyin Omotoso & Oluseyi Amoo

**Allegretto**

SOPRANO

ALTO

TENOR

BASS

Piano



**f**

4

SOPRANO

ALTO

TENOR

BASS

Piano

He reigns! He reigns! He reigns!



7 *f*

SOPRANO  
A - lle - lu - ia, Our God reigns! Our God reigns! I will

ALTO  
A - lle - lu - ia, Our God reigns! Our God reigns! I will

TENOR  
A - lle - lu - ia, Our God reigns! Our God reigns!

BASS  
A - lle - lu - ia, Our God reigns! Our God reigns!

Piano



10

SOPRANO  
sing! I will shout! A - lle - lu - ia! He's got the vic-to-

ALTO  
sing! I will shout! A - lle - lu - ia! He's got the vic-to-

TENOR  
Yes He reigns! Yes He reigns! A - lle - lu - ia! He's got the vic-to-

BASS  
Yes He reigns! Yes He reigns! A - lle - lu - ia! He's got the vic-to-

Piano



13

SOPRANO  
ry The vic - to - ry!

ALTO  
ry The vic - to - ry!

TENOR  
ry The vic - to - ry!

BASS  
ry The vic - to - ry!

Piano



16

SOPRANO

ALTO

TENOR

BASS

Piano



19

SOPRANO

ALTO

TENOR

BASS

Piano



22

SOPRANO

ALTO

TENOR

BASS

Piano

*p* Du-du - du, Du-du - du, Du-du - du, Du-du - du,



25

SOPRANO

ALTO

TENOR *p*  
Du-du du, du du du,

BASS  
Du-du - du, Du-du - du, Du-du - du, Du-du - du, Du-du - du, Du du du,

Piano



28

SOPRANO

ALTO

TENOR  
Du du du du, — Du du du, du-du-du, Du du du du, —

BASS  
Du du du, Du du du - Du du du, Du du du, Du-du du, Du du du,

Piano



31

SOPRANO

ALTO *p*  
Du du du, du du du, Du du du du, Du du du, du du du,

TENOR  
Du-du du, du-du-du, Du du du du, Du-du-du, du du du,

BASS  
Du du du, Du du du, Du du du, Du du du, Du du du, Du du du,

Piano



34

SOPRANO  
Hey e \_\_\_\_\_ Yes o\_

ALTO  
Du du du du, Du du du, du du du, Du du du du,

TENOR  
Du du du du, Du du du, du du du, Du du du du,

BASS  
Du du du, Du du du, Du du du, Du du du, Du-du-du, Du-du-du,

Piano



37

SOPRANO  
— A - lle - lu - ia our God reigns.---

ALTO  
Du-du- du, du-du- du, Du du du- du, Du-du- du, du-du- du,

TENOR  
Du-du- du, du-du- du, Du du du- du, Du-du- du, du-du- du,

BASS  
Du-du- du, Du-du- du, Du-du- du, Du-du- du, Du-du- du, Du-du- du,

Piano



40

SOPRANO  
Our Lord is clo-thed in glo - ry.--- He for - e - ver reigns. His

ALTO  
Du du du du, Du-du- du, du du du, Du du du du,---

TENOR  
Du du du du, Du-du- du, du du du, Du du du du,---

BASS  
Du-du- du, Du-du- du, Du-du- du, Du-du- du, Du-du- du, Du-du- du,

Piano



43

SOPRANO  
King- dom shines so bright, The Lord is great I am a winn - er.

ALTO  
Du-du - du, du du du, Du du du du, Du-du - du, du du du,

TENOR  
Du-du - du, du du du, Du du du du, Du-du - du, du du du,

BASS  
Du-du - du, Du-du - du, Du-du - du, Du du du, Du-du - du, Du-du - du,

Piano



46

SOPRANO  
He reigns!

ALTO  
Du du du du du. He reigns!

TENOR  
Du du du du du. He reigns!

BASS  
Du-du - du, Du du du du. He reigns!

Piano



10

49 *f*

SOPRANO  
He reigns! He reigns! A-lle-lu - ia  
*f*

ALTO  
He reigns! He reigns! A-lle-lu - ia  
*f*

TENOR  
He reigns! He reigns! A-lle-lu - ia  
*f*

BASS  
He reigns! He reigns! A-lle-lu - ia

Piano

52 *f*

SOPRANO  
Our— God reigns! He reigns! He reigns!

ALTO  
Our— God reigns! He reigns! He reigns!

TENOR  
Our— God reigns! He reigns! He reigns!

BASS  
Our— God reigns! He reigns! He reigns!

Piano

55 *f*

SOPRANO He reigns! A - lle - lu - ia A - lle - lu - ia

ALTO He reigns! A - lle - lu - ia A - lle - lu - ia

TENOR He reigns! A - lle - lu - ia A - lle - lu - ia

BASS He reigns! A - lle - lu - ia A - lle - lu - ia

Piano

58 *ff*

SOPRANO A - lle - lu - ia God! reigns!

ALTO A - lle - lu - ia God! reigns!

TENOR A - lle - lu - ia God! reigns!

BASS A - lle - lu - ia God! reigns!

Piano

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