



Name That Tune | BY BONNIE DWYER

What is the title of the most famous Adventist hymn?

Think *Voice of Prophecy*.

Is it "Lift up the Trumpet?"

Think Wayne Hooper.

Is it "We Have This Hope?"

It's both. And the two songs have now been combined into a magisterial production number for the upcoming General Conference in San Antonio. Arranged by Williams Costa (director of the General Conference communication department) for orchestra, choir, and children's choir, the sheet music was distributed at Annual Council in October 2014, along with a DVD with tracks to use in rehearsal.

When I talked to Jim Hooper, son of Wayne, about the new arrangement, I asked what his father might have thought of having his most famous composition used in this way. "He would have loved it," Jim said.

Talking about Adventist hymns always make me think of Wayne Hooper and James White. To me, they are the Adventist hymnal heroes: James, for publishing the very first hymnal and for helping us sing our way through the Great Disappointment. And then Hooper for his work on the 1985 hymnal. In the 1970s, Hooper began his campaign for a new hymnal by bringing to the attention of the brethren how long it had been since the previous hymnal was published, in 1941. Once a committee had finally been appointed, Hooper worked full-time on the project for four years, writing arrangements and making sure everything was in order. Then he spent another six years working on a companion book to go with the hymnal, with stories and details about each song.

Perhaps it is time to sing that tune again about the need for a new hymnal, now that it has been thirty years since the last hymnal was published. Worship music has changed significantly in that time. And as Kendra Haloviak

Valentine reminds us in her article on hymnody in this issue, singing together is important. Ron Lawson shows us in his piece how it is fragmenting. Richard Hickam of the Florida Hospital Church recently pointed out to us that, unlike in past years, for the upcoming General Conference there has not been an invitation to musicians to create new music.

In addition to music, we look at Bible reading in this issue. The study process created by the Theology of Ordination Study Committee revealed the difficulties that we have reading the Bible together. Three different scriptural interpretations emerged around the topic of women's ordination. Somer George tells us about how those readings were presented at Annual Council in 2014, as she recounts her experience as a lay delegate to the General Conference annual meeting.

We have three people helping us think about how we read the Bible: Smuts van Rooyen, James Londis, and Timothy Floyd. Each generation reads in a different manner, we learn from Floyd. Van Rooyen takes us to the text that shows God's priorities as we read. Londis helps us see how reading affects our own story as a church.

This issue's exegesis of our community life includes a look at Adventist television media in North America. And we close with a tribute to the exegesis of existence as experienced through the music of Franz Schubert. Check our website for links to the music in the Schubert story.

Janene Evard, our cover artist, created her exuberant art piece while at her home in the Swiss Alps and titled it "Joy Upon the Mountain."

We wish you joy as 2014 comes to a close, and we look forward to good times singing and reading together in 2015. ■

Bonnie Dwyer is editor of *Spectrum* magazine.