

# How Can We Sing with Joy to God

Brian Foley  
*The New Catholic Hymnal*

Stephen Dean

**INTRO** (♩ = ca. 144)

Organ *f*

C#m/E Em/D

no Ped.

**VERSE 1: Women**

*f*

1. How can we sing with joy to

F#m/C# C#m/F# G#7 A Bm A/C# E F#m E/G# D/F# C#m/E

Ped.

1. God, How can we pray to him, When

D Bm A/C# E F#m Bm7 Esus4 E F#m

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HOW CAN WE SING WITH JOY TO GOD (Organ/Choral), cont. (2)

1. we are far a - way from God In self - ish - ness and

D E/D A/C# D Bm7 Dmaj7 E C#m7 F#m D Bm6 C#m

VERSE 2: Men

*mf*

1. sin? \_\_\_\_\_ 2. How can we claim to do God's

F#m F#m/E D Amaj7/C# Bm F#m E/F# D/F#

2. will When we have turned a - way \_\_\_\_\_ From things of God to

Bm/D Bm7 Esus4 E F#m D E/D A/C#

2. things of earth And willed to dis - o - bey? \_\_\_\_\_

Bm7 Dmaj7 E C#m7 F#m D/F# Bm6 C#m F#m C#7sus4/G# F#m/A

no Ped.

HOW CAN WE SING WITH JOY TO GOD (Organ/Choral), cont. (3)

VERSE 3: *a cappella*

S  
A  
T  
B

Bm C#m A/C# Bm

3. How can we praise the love of

3. God, Which all his works make known, When

3. all our works turn from his love To choices

3. of our own?

F#m F#m6 F#m7

*mp*

HOW CAN WE SING WITH JOY TO GOD (Organ/Choral), cont. (4)

VERSE 4: All

*mp*

4. God knows the sin - ful things we do, The god - less life we

E/G# D/A Bm/D G#7/F# E Bm7

(no Ped.)

4. live, ————— Yet in his love he calls to us So

C#m7 E9 F#sus4 F#m F#m/E D13(#11) C#7sus4 C#7

4. read - y to for - give. —————

C13(#11) B13 Bm D/C Dm Dm/C

*f*

VERSE 5 Descant (S)

Melody (A, T)  
5. So we will

5. So we will turn a -

5. So we will turn a - gain to

D/A Fm7/A<sup>b</sup> Dm7/G F#m7 Bm7 Dmaj7/E C#m/E

*ff*

Ped.

5. turn a - gain to God, His ways will be our ways, His

5. gain to God, His ways will be our ways, His

5. God, His ways will be our ways, His

Bm add2 Bm7/A G#<sup>o</sup>7 Bm/D F#7sus4/C# F#7/C# Bm7 C#m7

HOW CAN WE SING WITH JOY TO GOD (Organ/Choral), cont. (6)

5. will our will, his love our love, And he him -

5. will our will, his love our love, And he him -

5. will our will, his love our love, And he him -

F#m/A F#m/E E9/D F#9/C# Bm7 F#m/E Bm7/D

5. self, him - self our praise, our praise! \_\_\_

5. self our praise! \_\_\_

5. self our praise, our praise! \_\_\_

E C#m7 F#m F#m7/C# Emaj9 C#m7 F#

*fff*

# Assembly Editions

## HOW CAN WE SING WITH JOY TO GOD

Stephen Dean



1. How can we sing with joy to God, How can we
2. How can we claim to do God's will When we have
3. How can we praise the love of God, Which all his
4. God knows the sin - ful things we do, The god - less
5. So we will turn a - gain to God, His ways will



1. pray to him, When we are far a - way from
2. turned a - way From things of God to things of
3. works make known, When all our works turn from his
4. life we live, Yet in his love he calls to
5. be our ways, His will our will, his love our



1. God In self - ish - ness and sin?
2. earth And willed to dis - o - bey?
3. love To choic - es of our own?
4. us So read - y to for - give.
5. love, And he him - self our praise!

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## Composer Notes

### How Can We Sing with Joy to God

This hymn by Father Brian Foley presents an eloquent and profound text with a very personal question in the first stanza, one which all singers—all worshippers—have to answer. Like a “Lament” psalm, though, the hymn ends on a note of hope and praise, contrasting our sinfulness with God’s forgiveness. The choral arrangement emphasizes this change, and the “praise” sung in successive voices should be given great emphasis. This was composed as a unison congregational hymn; it could also be sung as a choral anthem.

—Stephen Dean