



A  
Program  
of  
Old Hymns  
and  
Gospel  
Tunes

Played on  
the  
Wind-Shaper

**Presented by John E. Wampler**  
165 Lakeside Dr.  
Arnoldsville, GA 30619

*e-mail:* [jewampler@ravensbournepress.com](mailto:jewampler@ravensbournepress.com)

# ***Old Hymns and Gospel Tunes on the Wind-Shaper***

## ***Program Selections.***

New selections are being developed all the time, but most of this program will be drawn from the following tunes:

All My Trials  
Amazing Grace  
And Can It Be  
At The Cross  
Be Thou My Vision  
Blessed Assurance Jesus is Mine  
Deep River  
Down to the River to Pray  
Fairest Lord Jesus  
Gift of Love  
How Great Thou Art  
I'll Fly Away  
In the Garden  
Just A Closer Walk With Thee  
Nobody Knows the Trouble I've Seen  
O Lord, I Pray (Abide with Me)  
Old Rugged Cross, The  
Sometimes I Feel Like a Motherless Child  
There's a Land Beyond the River  
We Shall Overcome  
What Wondrous Love is This  
Morning Has Broken  
My Lord What a Mornin'  
Pass It On  
Spirit Song, The  
When I survey the Wondrous Cross  
Wayfaring Stranger

## ***Technical Details.***

All sounds are produced by the tone generator of a portable synthesizer . The accompaniment is played by a computer playing a MIDI file developed by the performer. The computer is also connected to the ton generator. The MIDI file was created using music editing software on a laptop computer. The voices played using the **Wind-Shaper** (a Yamaha WX-5 Wind MIDI Controller) include the sounds of a bassoon, cello, clarinet, English horn, flute, Japanese flutes (Shakuhachi and Shanai), oboe, pan flute, tenor saxophone, trombone, tuba, and viola, The MIDI commands from the Wind-Shaper and the data from the accompaniment files are combined in the tone generator and sent to an Amplifier system.

## ***The Most Asked Questions.***

### ***1) What is that thing you're playing?***

The “Wind Shaper” is a Wind MIDI Controller. It does the same thing for a wind instrument player that a keyboard does for a pianist. That is, it sends the MIDI codes for notes and velocity to the sound generator. With a keyboard, velocity is how hard and fast the key on the keyboard is struck. With the wind instrument it is how hard and fast you blow through the instrument. “Velocity” then typically controls how loud each note sounds. By varying the velocity, the player “Shapes” the sound.

Instruments like the “Wind Shaper” and the “Electronic Keyboard,” are fundamentally “SOUNDLESS.” They don’t make sounds on their own. A second set of electronics, sometimes in a separate case and sometimes in the same case, actually makes the sound.



## 2) *What is MIDI?*

MIDI, stands for Musical Instrument Digital Interface, which is a standard system for sending electronic data between musical and other show-business equipment like spot lights or fog machines. With its broad range of applications, MIDI is often used to synchronize lights or theatrical effects with music in stage shows.

## 3) *Who's playing the accompaniment?*

The accompaniment for my performances was created and is played by my laptop computer. Like text editors, there are music editor programs for PCs. They let you compose or arrange music and change music that already exists. For most of my performances, the notes from sheet music or from files downloaded from the internet were edited in one of these programs. The voices used for the different parts (piano, acoustic bass, guitar, banjo, etc.) were assigned in the editor. In some cases the key or tempo was changed, the order of segments was changed or new lines of music added. The final result was then stored in a MIDI computer file on the disk drive. For performance, that file is played back by the MIDI playing software and goes to the tone generator by way of the USB port.



#### ***4) Why don't you just play along with pre-recorded music, Karaoke style?***

MIDI is much more flexible and adaptable. As you can imagine, the entire performance combining both my playing and the computer's data could be recorded as a MIDI data file and played back in the same way as the accompaniment itself, or it could be recorded as an audio file and played by a CD or mp3 player. This is often done in complex studio recordings. Some artists use this feature of MIDI to layer their one-man-band performances to create a complex performance of many instruments and many kinds of sounds. Synthesizers can make many sounds that no orchestral instrument could ever make.

There are two advantages of MIDI based recorded music. The first is that while it is digitally accurate--you get exactly the same sequence of commands and notes each time you play the file-- it is also very flexible. For example, you can change the key or tempo of the music playback with a single simple command. You can edit the music to change instruments so that a part originally played with the piano keyboard is now played with a flute or a guitar. The second advantage is that a MIDI sequence of a musical performance is a very small data file. In computer file sizes, music takes up lots of space. For example, a music track from typical CD takes about 10 megabytes (10,000,000 bytes) of computer file space for every minute of recording. Compressed music like that used by the popular MP3 players takes about 1/10<sup>th</sup> the space (1,000,000 bytes/minute). The same performance in MIDI format would take perhaps 2,000 bytes/minute, 0.02% of the space required for the CD recording of the exact same sounds!