Three Sacred Works 2
The Lord’s Prayer
For Choir and Keyboard
Sydney, 1845

Isaac Nathan
Canterbury, 1799 – Sydney, 1864

Edited by
Richard Divall

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Introduction

Isaac Nathan, musician, journalist and composer was born in Canterbury, England, the son of a Polish Jewish cantor. A pupil of Domenico Corri, who composed the ballad opera on the South Seas, Pitcairn Island, Nathan came to prominence with his publication in 1815 of the two volumes of Hebrew Melodies, set to the poetry of Lord Byron. Financial difficulties caused Nathan to leave England, and he arrived in Sydney in April 1841. There through his self-promotion he became a well-known musical figure in early Sydney. Together with William Vincent Wallace he was the best known musical identity in the early life of the Colony of New South Wales. Nathan worked as a musician at the embryonic St Mary’s Roman Catholic Cathedral, then under the Benedictine Bishop [later Archbishop] John Bede Polding, as well as having an association with St James’ Anglican Church. This church had been commissioned by Governor Lachlan Macquarie in 1820 and designed by Francis Greenway. The first full biography on Nathan was ‘The Hebrew Melodist’ by Catherine Mackerras, published in 1963. Mackerras, was the mother of the great Australian conductor, Sir Charles Mackerras, who was also a descendant of Nathan. Nathan is supposed to have written the first opera in Sydney, Don John of Austria, which was presented on 7 May 1847 at the Victoria Theatre, Sydney. A vocal score survives in the Mitchell Library, as well as the complete libretto and dialogue, which is in the Colonial Secretary’s papers in the State Library of NSW. Nathan composed in several genres, songs, sacred music and especially music written about the indigenous inhabitants of the Sydney region, some of the texts set in the native language spoken around Port Jackson. He died in 1864 as the result of an accident on the newly introduced horse drawn tram in Sydney. Very few of his manuscripts survive, presumably because his widow burned them after his untimely death. We now know that Nathan was a prolific writer, commentator and may have been Australia’s first food critic. The Sydney academic, Dr Graham Pont is currently completing a large scale study of the composer’s life and works, including his contributions to Sydney’s journals.

The three sacred works in this series were all composed by Nathan in Sydney. The first, The Lord’s Prayer was published in 1845 and dedicated to the Rt Rev. William Grant Broughton, then the Anglican ‘Lord Bishop of Australia’. It was composed either as a solo for one voice or to be sung in a four part vocal ensemble, accompanied by either pianoforte or organ. The Anthem ‘O Praise the Lord all ye Heathen’ was an arrangement of the anthem of the same text by Henry Purcell (Z43), and reproduced in John Chetham’s A Book of Psalmody, first published in 1717. Nathan ‘revised, corrected and arranged’ the original Purcell and in the style of the time, improved upon the original work, making it into a five part anthem. It was printed in Nathan’s curious book of essays, The Southern Euphrosny and Australian Miscellany which was published in Sydney in 1849. The Names of Christ was issued in 1853, and is a series of verses of music, for six voices and set to poetry by the Rev James Brotherton Laughton of Sydney (1814–1883). It was composed expressly for ‘St James’ and St Mary’s Choral Societies’.

Richard Divall
May 2014.
Oil Portrait of Isaac Nathan – National library of Australia
THE LORD'S PRAYER.

COMPOSED FOR ONE OR FOUR VOICES.

AND RESPECTFULLY INSCRIBED TO

THE RIGHT REVEREND WILLIAM GRANT BROUGHTON, D.D.

LORD BISHOP OF AUSTRALIA.

BY

I. NATHAN.

Entered at Stationers Hall. 1845.

Published by W. Baker, Ebernon Press, King-street, Sydney; and by Falkner, 5, Old Bond-street, London.

Price—Two Shillings.

Piano Forte

OR

Organ.
Facsimile of the opening pages of *The Lord's Prayer*
National Library of Australia.
CRITICAL NOTES

The Lord's Prayer
The tenor 1 line is written one octave too high, and might be intended to be an alto line, and to be read down an octave. In this edition it has been transposed down an octave and listed for Alto Voice.

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Richard Divall
May 2014

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The Lord's Prayer
Composed for One or Four Voices and Organ
& Respectfully Inscribed to the Rt Rev William Grant Broughton DD. Isaac Nathan [1790-1864]
Lord Bishop of Australia - Sydney 1845
For St Mary's Cathedral Choir.

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Our Father which art in Heaven, Hallowed be Thy name, Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, our daily bread, And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us.

Our Father which art in Heaven, Hallowed be Thy name, Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, our daily bread, And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us.
[Music notation]
deliver us from evil: For Thine is the kingdom, the pow'r and the

glory for ever and ever. Amen!

Amen! Amen! Amen!

Amen! Amen! Amen!

Amen! Amen! Amen!