

7/17/20

If you were to ask many people about a favorite hymn, "ON EAGLE'S WINGS" would often be at the tip of their tongues. Fr. Jan Michael Joncas took his inspiration from Psalm 91:

"Those who dwell in the shelter of the Most High shall say to the Lord:

YOU are our refuge and our stronghold,
Our God in whom we put our trust...."



— and he penned this song in the mid 1970's. Upon learning that a good friend's dad had died from a heart attack, he set out "to create something that would be both prayerful and comforting" and he composed the song on his guitar. After the funeral, he set it aside and didn't publish it until a few years later. He was surprised when it began to be requested by other religious denominations, and even more amazed when it was sung nationally at various funerals and at the mass for Luciano Pavarotti! Since that

time, it has been included in countless hymnals and has become a favorite of groups as diverse as the Air Force Academy and Native American communities where the eagle holds an important place in spiritual life.

Joncas remains grateful that now, 40 plus years after its creation, God is still speaking to so many through this beautiful text

In this present time of COVID illness and so much uncertainty in our nation, it is a comfort to sing of God's promise to be with us.

Click on this link and sing along <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=c4-BVr7HwFs>

"And I will raise you up on eagle's wings,
Bear you on the breath of dawn,
Make you to shine like the sun
And hold you in the palm of my hand....."