ABOUT THE MUSIC

I served on the adjunct faculty of the Philadelphia College of Bible (now the Philadelphia Biblical University) for five years, first as a trumpet teacher, then as a music theory and ear training instructor; the latter was most challenging for a freelance musician, as it required my presence 45 minutes from home at 8 in the morning! For many years, the college put on a gala concert at the Valley Forge Music Fair, and it was for this concert in 1994 that I was asked to write something to feature the trumpet ensemble. Paging through an old hymnal we had at home that contained a number of "campmeeting" style tunes, I came across There's a Great Day Coming, and was struck by the musical possibilities it offered. Since its premiere, it has received numerous performances at International Trumpet Guild conferences, the National Trumpet Competition, and by the cornet section of the New York Staff Band of the Salvation Army on their 2003 tour of the United Kingdom. It has been recorded by Philip Smith on the Cala label, and by the NYSB on their "Tour de Force" CD.

The arrangement has a jazz flavor throughout, with two brief exceptions: measures 40-47, which should be played like an old-style Salvationist quartet, and the two measure quote from Handel's "The Trumpet Shall Sound" starting with the pickup to measure 115. Aficionados of late 70's/early 80's Contemporary Christian music may recognize small snippets of the Imperials' "Trumpet of Jesus" and Dottie Rambo's "We Shall Behold Him" shortly after the Handel except. Though the solos and background riffs were written to fit together, performers may wish to follow the lead of Lew Soloff on Phil Smith's CD and improvise in ways that suit them best.

There's a great day coming, A great day coming; There's a great day coming by and by, When the saints and the sinners shall be parted right and left. Are you ready for that day to come?

Are you ready? Are you ready? Are you ready for the judgment day? Are you ready? Are you ready? Are you ready for the judgment day?



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Score

eat Day Coming Will Lamartine Thompson
Arr. Terry R. Everson



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