



## Oneida Indian Hymns

Bureau of Catholic Indian Missions Records, Series 8-2 Bureau American Indian Language Records – Oneida language

### Historical Note

Oneida hymnal singing represents a bicultural musical genre among the Oneida Indian people. It began as means of Christian conversion prescribed by Queen Anne of England in a charter in 1702. The Oneida Prayer Singers, as they were known, began before 1743. After 1750, they used hymnals with music translated from English and German into the Mohawk language, which included an 1835 Mohawk hymnal intended for *a capella* singing. Later, it is believed that they translated Oneida hymns directly from English and German. In 1822, Oneida people began their emigration to Oneida, Wisconsin, where the tradition of choir singing continued.

Today's Oneida Singers is an informal group. They fluctuate between 12 to over 50 members; their ages range from young teens to seniors in their 80s; and they are active in the Episcopal, Methodist and Assembly of God churches. Their singing continues as a vibrant part of tribal community and religious events such as worship services and funeral wakes. At wakes of senior choir members and prominent tribal leaders, their singing may continue late into the night as an expression of respect. In 2004, the Oneida Singers performed at the opening of the National Museum of the American Indian in Washington, D.C., the recording of which is featured on the Smithsonian Folkways recording [sound compact disc], *The Beautiful Beyond: Christian Songs in Native Languages*. [Bureau of Catholic Indian Missions Records, Series 8-2, **M2198 .M43 2004**, 2 copies; Beautiful Beyond = Oneida Hymnal, song 10.] In 2008, the National Endowment for the Humanities awarded them a National Heritage Fellowship award.

### Provenance and Content Note

The hymn numbers within the recordings correspond to song Oneida language texts within the *Oneida Hymnal*, preface by Oscar H. Archiquette, published 1965, and reprinted 1998.

Oneida Hymns and History of the Episcopal Church among the Oneida, Oscar H. Archiquette (or Archequette), [presenter], director, **E99.O45 O53 2000z**; Oneida Indian Choir at Nashotah House Episcopal Seminary, Nashotah, Wisconsin, October 13, 1961; Oscar Archiquette (1901-dec.) presents a series of readings from Oneida Indian history, ca. 1830s to 1961, which is interspersed by hymns sung by the Oneida Choir. [sound recording: CD-Rom]

Richard McAllister produced the original recording, which Earl C. Fenner, acquired in the 1970s. Within Fenner's collection (also known as the [Dr. John] Orens/Fenner Collection), this recording is known as no. 369, copies of which have been donated to the Oneida Nation Museum (Oneida, Wisconsin) and Marquette University, 2002. Fenner believes that all copyrights reside in the public domain.

| <u>Track No.</u> | <u>Hymn No.</u> | <u>Hymn Name</u>                               |
|------------------|-----------------|--|
| 2                | 47              | Great Blessing                                 |
| 4                | 14              | Sweet Rest                                     |
| 6                | 5               | Till Jesus Comes                               |
| 8                | 15              | Jatgato (1850); Lo! What an Entertaining Sight |
| 10               | 26              | Watch and Pray                                 |
| 12               | 20              | Seeking the Lost                               |
| 14               | 115             | Back Sliding                                   |
| 17               | 111             | Washed in the Blood                            |
| 19               | 6               | Thus Far the Lord has Led Me On                |
| 20               | 68              | Calling His Name                               |
| 22               | 31              | Building on the Rock                           |
| 24               | 30              | Dark Day when Jesus Died (for Easter season)   |
| 26               | 53              | When I Pass On                                 |

Hymns in the Oneida Language, Album Number One; Oneida Indian Singers, Oneida, Wisconsin, 1988 [sound recording; audio cassette]

| <u>Hymn No.</u> | <u>Hymn Name</u>                               |
|-----------------|--|
| <i>Side 1</i>   |  |
| 15              | Jatgato (1850); Lo! What an Entertaining Sight |
| 17              | I will Follow                                  |
| 25              | Let the Lower Lights be Burning                |
| 91              | Ne ya go ya ne le (1850)                       |
| 18              | Funeral Song: Must I Go Empty Handed           |
| 26              | Watch and Pray                                 |
| 140             | We Shall Stand before the Lord                 |
| 1               | Who Shall Ever will may Come                   |
| 6               | Thus Far the Lord has Led Me On                |
| <i>Side 2</i>   |  |
| 24              | The World is a Good Place                      |
| 10              | Beautiful Beyond                               |
| 136             | Count your Blessings                           |
| 109             | He Leadeth Me                                  |
| 35              | Wait on the Lord                               |
| 16              | Nothing but the Blood of Jesus                 |
| 64              | Song for the Sick                              |
| 15              | Jatgato (1850); Lo! What an Entertaining Sight |
| 23              | Canadian Song                                  |
| 172             | America  |
| -               | Doxology                                       |
| 180             | Lord's Prayer                                  |

Oneida Hymn Singers; Oneida, Wisconsin, 2008 [sound recording: CD-Rom]

| <u>Hymn No.</u> | <u>Hymn Name</u>                            |
|-----------------|---|
| 2               | It's Going to Punish Them                   |
| 6               | Lambert's Song (Chorus 10)                  |
| 7               | O that will be Glory                        |
| 15              | Amos' Song (Chorus 174)                     |
| 44              | Shall We Gather at the River                |
| 15              | Meekly Wait (Chorus 168)                    |
| 46              | Hard Times                                  |
| 68              | Calling His Name Savior                     |
| 15              | G ha we z ze la (Chorus 175)                |
| 70              | Da gweh ya lak ji wa gyo de                 |
| 100             | Singing Last                                |
| 105             | Previous Name of Jesus                      |
| 131             | Where He leads I will Follow                |
| 15              | They are All Singing in Heaven (Chorus 176) |
| 146             | When We Reach our Home                      |
| 147             | The Great Physician                         |
| 150             | Da gye na-za ya nel                         |
| 157             | I will Sing the Wondrous Story              |
| 180             | The Lord's Prayer                           |

Prepared July 7, 2009