



2005

### Music from Our Lord's Holy Heaven

Lara M. Ackerman

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Pinkney, Gloria Jean. *Music from Our Lord's Holy Heaven*. Introduction by Troy Pinkney-Ragsdale. Illustrated by Jerry Pinkney, Brian Pinkney, and Myles C. Pinkney. HarperCollins, 2005. ISBN 0060007699. \$18.89. 41 p.

Reviewer: Lara M. Ackerman

Reading Level: Preschool, Primary, Intermediate

Rating: Excellent

Genre: Informational; Folklore

Subject: Hymns, English--Juvenile literature; Hymns--Juvenile literature; Spirituals (songs)--Juvenile literature; Books--Reviews;

Truly a family effort, the entire Pinkney family contributed their talents to this heart-felt collection of spirituals, including “Wade in the Water,” “Glory, Glory, Hallelujah,” “We Are Climbing Jacob's Ladder” and “This Little Light of Mine.” The songs are book-ended with essays written by Gloria Pinkney and Troy Pinkney-Ragsdale which tell of their own introduction to music and the magical, powerful place it can have in the lives of both children and adults. Each song is beautifully accompanied by Brian or Jerry Pinkney's award-winning illustrations or Myles' full color photography. Their artistic interpretations bring to life the jubilation, delight and majesty of the traditional lyrics. Rather than musical scores, the book includes a CD recording of Gloria's rich alto vocal renditions of each song.

Throughout *Music from Our Lord's Holy Heaven*, the unity created through the Pinkney family's diverse artistic styles is reminiscent of the songs themselves, many voices harmonizing for a single purpose. Likewise, the purpose of the Pinkney family is clear: to share the joy of faith, love and music with anyone who will listen.