This Latter-day Saint hymn database is an attempt to catalog every official, English-language hymnal published by the Church since 1835. At least one example of every hymnal officially authorized by the First Presidency has been included here. In addition, the unofficial 1844 Little & Gardner hymnal was included because of its historical importance.

The very first hymnal of the Church, *A Collection of Sacred Hymns for the Church of the Latter-day Saints*, was published in late 1835 or early 1836. Of the 90 hymn texts published in that little hymnal, 26 still survive in one form or another in our 1985 hymnal. Of those 26, less than five use the same tune that was sung in 1836.

Unfortunately, since the 1835 hymnal contained only words, and records are very sketchy, it is difficult to determine exactly which tunes the Saints sang in those early days. This hymn database includes as much information as can be gleaned about those early hymn tunes. Each tune name is listed along with an estimate of the probability that it was actually sung by the Saints in 1836:

- G = guess;
- D = definite non-LDS reference;
- P = probable;
- LDS = definite LDS historical reference.

About half of the hymns in the 1835 hymnal were of non-LDS origin, and most of those can be found in various Protestant hymnals from that time. In many cases, the non-LDS hymns were sung to more than one tune at various places and times; in those cases, an attempt has been made to list the most “popular” tune in the database.

The original LDS texts in the 1835 hymnal present a more difficult challenge: Since they were never sung outside the Church, and no LDS hymnals before 1884 (except one) contained music, it is well-nigh impossible to know what tunes were associated with these uniquely LDS texts. There probably never was an “official” tune list for the 1835 hymnal maintained by WW Phelps, nor anyone else. The more popular hymns were sung to well-known tunes (such as MISSIONARY HYMN, which seemed to be the most popular tune of all) while other, more obscure texts may have been stillborn – they were never sung at all, and hence they never had any tune associated with them. Thus, it is futile to attempt to come up with a complete list of all the tunes that were associated with all 90 of these hymns – no such complete “list” ever existed, in all likelihood.

The 1840 “Manchester hymnal” (originally titled *A Collection of Sacred Hymns for the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in Europe*) was not initially sanctioned by the First Presidency in Nauvoo, but was an independent effort by Brigham Young while he was in England. However, it quickly became the standard hymnal of the Church, evolving through 25 editions until the final one in 1912. It too contained only words – the Saints were still expected to know the tunes by heart. In later years, after the publication of the *Psalmody*, the Manchester hymnal was sometimes referred to as the “small hymnal”.

In 1841 Emma Smith published her second hymnal in Nauvoo, which was also titled *A Collection of Sacred Hymns*. This hymn included 304 hymn texts, but no music.

In 1844, G.B. Gardner and Jesse C. Little published a small collection of hymns in Vermont. Titled *A Collection of Sacred Hymns, For the Use of the Latter Day Saints*, this hymnal included tunes for 18 of the 90 hymns found in the 1835 LDS hymnal. This unofficial hymnbook was not widely distributed within the Church, and it quickly fell into obscurity. However, it gives us a unique glimpse into the actual tunes the Saints were singing at that time.
The *Latter-day Saints’ Psalmody*, first published in 1889, was the first official hymnal of the Church to include music with the words. It represented a complete change from the earlier, shape-note based hymnody. Almost every tune in the *Psalmody* was a brand new, original LDS composition, chiefly by the Church Music Committee at that time: George Careless, Ebenezer Beesley, Joseph J. Daynes, Evan Stephens, and Thomas C. Griggs. These 367 tunes (1906 edition) with their mostly LDS lyrics, comprise by far the most original LDS hymnal ever produced.

The *Psalmody* was very nearly a clean break with the past, but there were still a few tunes that might date back to 1835. For example, “The Gallant Ship is under weigh” appeared in the 1844 Little & Gardner hymnal with the same tune as found later in the *Psalmody*.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Psalmody Hymn</th>
<th>1835 Hymn</th>
<th>FIRST LINE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>307</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>An angel came down from the mansions of glory</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>324</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>Let us pray, gladly pray</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>301</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>There is now a feast for the righteous preparing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>166</td>
<td>49</td>
<td>The gallant ship is under weigh</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>250</td>
<td>63</td>
<td>O, stop and tell me, Red Man</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>114</td>
<td>68</td>
<td>Come, all ye Saints who dwell on earth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24</td>
<td>69</td>
<td>God spake the word, and time began</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>283</td>
<td>75</td>
<td>O Jesus! the giver of all we enjoy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>131</td>
<td>77</td>
<td>Mortals, awake! with angels join</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>291</td>
<td>83</td>
<td>How pleasant 'tis to see</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The *Psalmody* was a conscious effort to wean the Saints away from the old, “Sacred Harp” style of hymn singing they had been accustomed to since 1835. Every hymn in the *Psalmody* was cross-referenced to the same hymn text in the Manchester hymnal, so that either book could be used. This was designed to allow the Saints to use their old, familiar LDS hymn texts, while learning the newly composed tunes. Unfortunately, many of these new LDS compositions were far too complex for congregational singing, and might have been difficult even for ward and stake choirs, then or now. There must have been considerable resistance to this new style of hymn singing, and the *Psalmody* did not enjoy a very long use in the Church.

Far more popular than the *Psalmody* was the 1909 *Deseret Sunday School Songs*. It included many more easily “singable”, non-LDS hymns than the Psalmody, many of which we still sing today. This hymnbook evolved from several earlier Sunday School hymnbooks, including the 1884 *Deseret Sunday School Union Music Book*. The 1909 *Deseret Sunday School Songs* was in use by the Church right up until 1948.

In today’s highly correlated, streamlined Church, it is hard to believe that at one time we had four hymnals in use at the same time, all published by different auxiliaries. However, in 1912 the Missionary Committee published *The Songs of Zion*, specifically for use in the mission fields of the Church. About 2/3 of *The Songs of Zion* was drawn directly from the 1909 *Deseret Sunday School Songs* – even the page numbers are identical. Over the next 40 years, this hymnal was translated into German, Spanish, and many other languages and used by missionaries throughout the world.

The 1927 *Latter-day Saint Hymns* was the first fully modern hymnal of the Church, with two-staff notation, metronome markings, and multiple indices. It was designed to replace the *Psalmody*, and coexisted with the *Deseret Sunday School Songs* until they were both replaced in 1948 by the first edition of the old “blue hymnal” (*Hymns: Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints*). This hymnal was slightly revised in 1950, and became the standard for the Church right up to the release of the current green hymnal in 1985: *Hymns of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints*. 
EXPLANATION OF THE DATABASE COLUMNS

NOTE: In some cases, hymn numbers are listed. In other cases, the page numbers are referenced instead. This all depends on how each table of contents was organized. For the 1847 Manchester hymnal, specific page numbers were not available, but are marked by an “x”.

First Line  First line of the hymn text, including variations in brackets
Author  The author of the hymn text, if known
1835 Hymns  *A Collection of Sacred Hymns, for the Church of the Latter-day Saints* (Kirtland)
1835 Tune  The list of tunes that were or may have been sung by the Saints in 1836
1840 Manchester  *A Collection of Sacred Hymns for the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in Europe* (The “Manchester Hymnal”, first edition)
1841 Emma Smith  *A Collection of Sacred Hymns, for the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints*
1844 L&G  *A Collection of Sacred Hymns, for the use of the Latter-day Saints* (Little & Gardner)
1844 Tune  The tune names associated with each of the Little & Gardner hymns
1847 Manchester  Manchester Hymnal, 6th edition
1887 Manchester  Manchester Hymnal, 16th edition
1905 Manchester  Manchester Hymnal, 24th edition (derived from the 1906 *Psalmody* hymn numbers)
1906 Psalmody  *The Latter-day Saints Psalmody*, 3rd edition
Psalmody tune  1906 *Psalmody* tune references
Psalmody composer  1906 *Psalmody* composers’ names
1909 Deseret  *Deseret Sunday School Songs*
1912 Songs of Zion  *The Songs of Zion* (1918 edition, published in Chicago by the missions of the Church)
1927 Hymns  *Latter-day Saint Hymns*
1948 Hymns  *Hymns: Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints* (first edition)
1950 Hymns  *Hymns: Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints* (1948 revised)
1950 Tune  1950 *Hymns* tune references
1985 Hymns  *Hymns of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints*
1985 Tune  1985 *Hymns* tune references
1985 Composer  1985 *Hymns* composers’ names
Lyric Meter  The lyric meter of each of the hymn texts

This is still a work in progress, and there are other hymnals that conceivably could be added to this list. All 25 editions of the Manchester hymnal could be included, as well as all six editions of the *Psalmody*. However, this current database is sufficient to allow us to now analyze trends in LDS hymns over the years, in ways that were never possible before.

I am indebted to the following persons, who assisted me with researching the 1835 LDS hymnal, as well as the 1840, 1841, 1847, and 1948 hymnals:

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