



# ...And They Sang...A Hymn: Thomas Whitfield and the Contemporary Hymn Setting

---

Brandon Waddles, Ph.D.

Assistant Professor of Choral  
Conducting & Music Education

Wayne State University

Detroit, MI

# About Tommy...

- 1954-1992
- Mentored by Bishop Charles Ashley Craig, Rev. James Cleveland, Herbert Pickard, Alfred Bolden, and Beverly Glenn
- The Thomas Whitfield Company, *Founder & Artistic Director*
- Produced the likes of Vanessa Bell Armstrong, Yolanda Adams, Keith Pringle, Bishop Paul Morton, and Aretha Franklin



# The Whitfield Sound

---

01

Redefining  
the Choral  
Sound

02

Blending  
Gospel, Jazz  
and  
Classicism

03

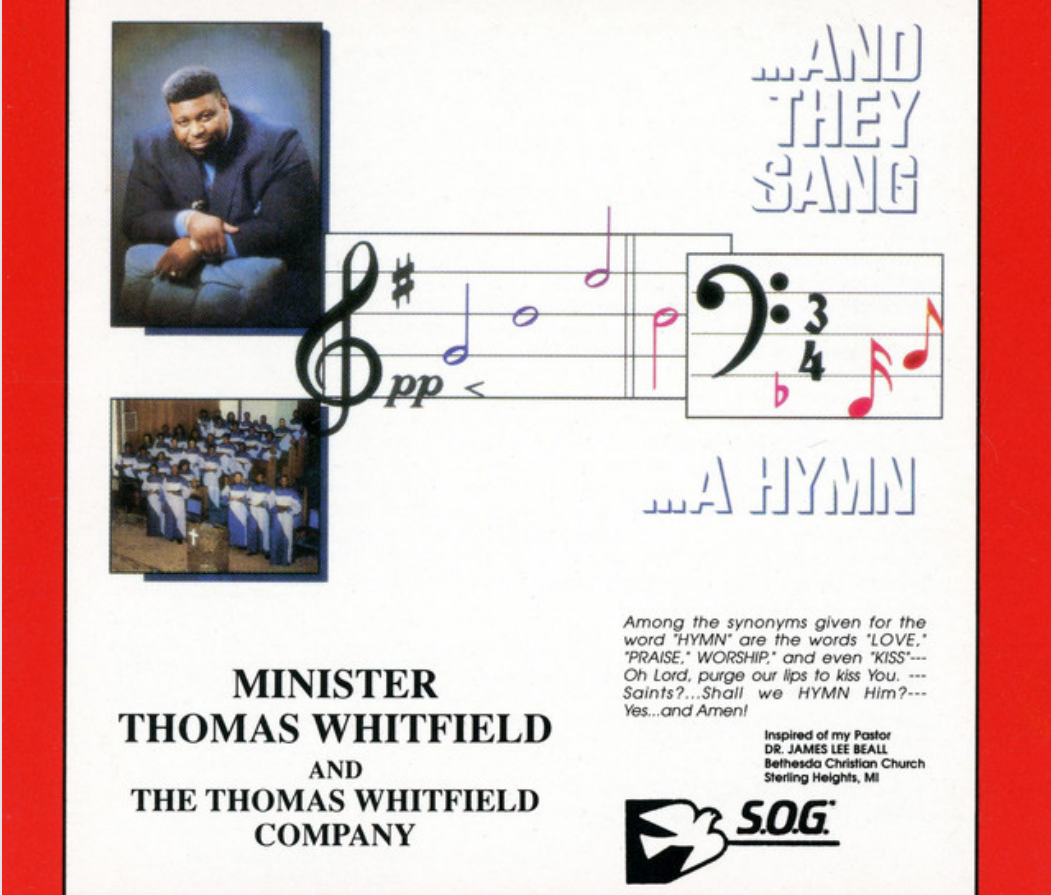
Creating  
Symphonic  
Textures

04

Deepening of  
Intimacy in  
Gospel Song  
Lyrics

"Thomas Whitfield was a friend to the hymnbook."  
- V. Michael McKay

- Trademark introits, tags, and vamps
- Extended harmonies
- The dramatization and conversationalism of song lyricism



**AND THEY SANG  
A HYMN**

**MINISTER  
THOMAS WHITFIELD  
AND  
THE THOMAS WHITFIELD  
COMPANY**

*Among the synonyms given for the word "HYMN" are the words "LOVE," "PRAISE," "WORSHIP," and even "KISS"--- Oh Lord, purge our lips to kiss You, --- Saints?...Shall we HYMN Him?--- Yes...and Amen!*

Inspired of my Pastor  
DR. JAMES LEE BEALL  
Bethesda Christian Church  
Sterling Heights, MI

**S.O.G.**





## Making it Plain

---

- 🕒 Deliberately stylized introits
- 🕒 Lining of the verse
- 🕒 The Shakespearean chorus
- 🕒 Whitfield vamp
- 🕒 Whitfield outro

JUST IN CASE YOU'VE FORGOTTEN  
THOMAS WHITFIELD  
1954–1992



TRANSCRIBED AND ARRANGED  
BY BRANDON WADDLES



## We Remember...

---

- The Blood – James Hall
- Holy, Holy, Holy – Kurt Carr
- Sweet Little Jesus Boy – Donald Lawrence
- Go Tell It On The Mountain – Kirk Franklin



## For More...

---

🕒 Visit [www.giamusic.com](http://www.giamusic.com)

🕒 Visit [www.brandonwaddles.com](http://www.brandonwaddles.com)



HUMC

*88th Annual*  
CHOIR DIRECTORS' & ORGANIST GUILD  
WORKSHOP

**...AND THEY SANG...A HYMN:  
THOMAS WHITFIELD  
AND THE CONTEMPORARY HYMN  
SETTING**

***DR. BRANDON WADDLES***

Assistant Professor of Choral Conducting & Music Education  
Wayne State University  
Detroit, MI

