

BLESSED ASSURANCE

Fanny Crosby, Lyrics; Phoebe Knapp, Music, 1873

"Blessed Assurance" was composed by two of the most prolific Christian hymn writers in history. The lyrics come from Fanny Jane Crosby, a woman credited with over 8000 hymns to her credit and the music comes from the organ of Phoebe Knapp, a dear friend, whom she was visiting one day. Fanny overheard Phoebe playing a new composition on the organ. Phoebe told Fanny the tune was called "Assurance". Fanny replied: *'Blessed Assurance! Jesus is mine!'* And so began the collaboration that was to become one of the most beloved hymns of all times. *"Blessed Assurance"* was published in the July 1873 issue of Palmer's *"Guide to Holiness and Revival Miscellan"*, a magazine in New York City. Although, it appeared on page 36 (the last page), the complete text and piano score, was seen by many.



Despite being blind, Fanny Crosby's impact on Christian hymns was tremendous. She once described how her blindness affected her songs. *"I verily believe that God intended that I should live my days in physical darkness so that I might be better prepared to sing His praise and lead others from spiritual darkness into eternal light. With sight I would have been too distracted to have written thousands of hymns."* It was said she had as many as 200 pen names so that the public would not know she wrote so many of the hymns appearing in hymnals.

Phoebe Knapp was a composer of music for hymns and an organist. She also wrote the music for *"Nearer the Cross"*, another hymn by Fanny Crosby.



~ Tull