

# COME, YE DISCONSOLATE

*Tune: CONSOLATOR, Samuel Webbe, Sr., Music, 1792;  
Thomas Moore, Lyrics, 1824; Revised by Thomas Hastings, Lyrics, 1831*

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*“Come, Ye Disconsolate”* is a hymn written by Thomas Moore in 1824. The tune most commonly associated with this hymn is: CONSOLATOR, written by Samuel Webbe, SR. (1740-1816) in 1792 and published in the *“Collection of Motetts or Antiphons”*, London. The lyrics to *“Come, ye Disconsolate”* were revised by Thomas Hastings in 1831; these are the most common version of the hymn used today.

Samuel Webbe was an English composer and organist. He had been apprenticed to a cabinet maker at the age of 11, and discovered his aptitude for music when he was called on to repair a harpsichord cabinet. By the time the repair was complete, Webbe had also taught himself to play the instrument. The owner of the harpsichord overheard him playing it, and arranged for him to begin a formal music education. Webbe composed both secular and non-secular music. He went on to become a choir master and organist for various churches in England and throughout Europe, including the Portuguese Embassy Chapel.

Thomas Moore (1779-1852) was an Irish poet, singer, actor, and songwriter. He is probably best remembered for writing the words to *“Believe Me, If All Those Endearing Young Charms”* and this hymn, *“Come, Ye Disconsolate”*. In his autobiography, he writes of the deep grief he felt at the loss of his youngest sister, and this is the poem that came to him out of the depths of that grief. He published it, along with a number of other original poems and songs, in a small booklet entitled *“Moore's Irish Poems and Melodies”*. It has never been out of print since it was first published in 1821.

Thomas Hastings (1784-1872) was an American hymn writer and choir director. Born amid rough frontier life, his opportunities for education were small; but at an early age he developed a taste for music, and began teaching it in 1806. In 1832 he was called to New York to assume the charge of several Church Choirs. Although not a great poet, he yet attained considerable success; more hymns by him are found in common use than by any other native writer.

~ Tull