

Sunday Players

Drama Resources

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Amazing Love

Written by Michelle Taylor and Jim Poling

Words and Music to “You Are My King” by Billy James Foote

Characters:

Jerry: a dissatisfied man at a turning point in his life

Tom: music minister wanting to help Jerry
church pianist and praise and worship team

Synopsis: Jerry’s car breaks down in front of the church and he wanders in looking for a phone. Instead he finds himself at a turning point in his life and a group of people willing to help him locate the right path.

(Scene: platform empty of people. House lights dim. Jerry enters from sacristy DL. Spot on Jerry. Spot follows Jerry as he moves about.)

Jerry: (talking to himself, grumbling and complaining)

This is just great. Just perfect. If it’s not one thing, it’s another. I can’t believe my car broke down. It’s probably the timing belt. (bitter laugh) Ha, this just fits in perfectly with the way my life’s been lately. What is this place anyway? (feeling the wall for a switch) Where’s the light switch? (looks around) Must be some sort of an auditorium or something? I hope they have a phone.. If I’m lucky maybe Triple A won’t take 2 hours like they did last time. “lucky”, ha. Yeah that’s me – Mr. Lucky.

My car breaks down. Cell phone battery’s dead. (pulls out phone and talks into it- a la Verison commercial:) Can you hear me now? NO!! (sigh) ok jerry, just calm down. (closes eyes) Calm down, open your eyes and focus....

Whoa! Hey, this is a church! Haven’t been in one of these in a while. (walks up on the platform). Last time I was in a church....I think it was my wedding!

(sees electric guitar on stage) Wow look at this...an electric guitar. I wonder what kind of music they play in church these days? I guess I’d have to actually GO to church to figure that one out.

(spots piano) Oh now here – look at this. This is a beauty! I learned how to play on a piano just like this. Learned all the classics. (sits at the piano, begins to play “Smoke on the Water”. Stops suddenly and stands.) Wait a minute. I’m playing ‘Smoke on the Water’ on a holy piano. I gotta get outta here. I don’t belong in a church. God must have a sense of humor for making my car break down right next to one.

(looks up and speaks to God) So what are you thinking God? You think an empty church, a guitar, a piano and some (picks up sheet music) church music is gonna change my life? (sighs then sits. Realizing what he just said) Change my Life.

(looks at sheet music and refers to it) This isn't going to help me. (reads title) "You are my King: Amazing Love". Nice touch! I'm supposed to believe you have amazing love for me? (sarcastic) Right. I'm 'Mr. Righteous. I haven't been to church in years and even then it was only for the major holidays. I don't deserve your love. I'm not too crazy about myself these days. Why should you be any different?

Well, since I'm not going anywhere any time soon, I guess you've got my attention God. Of course, I could get up right now and search for a phone, call Triple A...wait out in the hot sun for 2 hours. It's kinda nice in here though. Quiet. Peaceful. Away from the pressures out there. I wonder if I could hide out here for a couple of years. That's about how long it will take to get my life together.

Things didn't turn out the way I planned. (Slumps head on piano for a second of silent contemplating. Looks at music and begins to sing the lyrics and play the piano. Play the first verse clumsily, then repeat it again but more smoothly and with the lyrics being sung) "I'm forgiven because you were forsaken. I'm accepted. You were condemned. I'm alive and well your spirit lives within me because you died and rose again."

(stops playing) Could it be that simple? Could you really forgive me and accept me? Why should you forgive me when I haven't bothered to include you in my life? What have I done for you lately that you'd forgive me? And accepted?! I mean, come on!. We're strangers! I haven't bothered to get to know you. I have made so many mistakes in my life. I've screwed up too many times to count. What's to accept?

(reads from lyrics) "You are my King". "Jesus you are my king." You know, I've never made you my king. I've never bowed down to you. I've never honored you. "Honoring God" is not exactly high on my priority list.

(reads lyrics) "It is my joy to honor you". Joy. Now there's a fleeting concept for you. I haven't felt joy is so long. Maybe when I first got married ...when I was in college...or first got my job. (said with heartfelt decisiveness) I'd give anything to have a little bit of that joy in my life again. Do you suppose a guy could change? Do you give second chances God? (gets up) I mean, look at me. I wouldn't be talking to you now if I wasn't stuck here. I never thought I needed you for anything....'till now.

(looks around to see if anyone is watching, kneels) God, (sigh) I don't know where to begin. I'd catch you up but I think you know everything that's been going on.

I can't take it anymore. You know? My life's a mess. There's no joy in my life...not in my work or my family. I never thought I needed to ask you for anything, you know? But I really do need your forgiveness. I need your acceptance. And I need your 'Amazing Love'.

(house lights suddenly come up full. Kill spotlight. Jerry is startled and begins to rise realizing someone else, Tom the choir director, is in the room with him. Tom turned the church lights on and walks up to alter area where Jerry is.)

Jerry: I'm sorry I didn't mean to be here.

Tom: (overlapping Jerry) No, I'm sorry. I didn't mean to intrude.

Jerry: I know I'm not supposed to be here. I just came in to find a phone. My car broke down out front. I was just leaving.

Tom: No. No. Please. You're welcome to stay. I heard you playing the piano and singing. Not bad. You sound like you might be a candidate for our choir.

Jerry: Oh, well, it seems like a nice song. But I really don't belong here. I mean, I'm not a member of your church.

Tom: This is God's house of prayer. Everyone is welcome here. We're getting ready to start our church service. You're welcome to sit down and join us. In fact, we have prayer counselors if you'd like someone to pray with you.

Jerry: (uncomfortable and embarrassed) No. Uh, thanks though. That's okay. I was just finishing up. Sorry to bother you.

Tom: It's no bother. Stay as long as you need. People are coming in for the service. Why don't you join us?

(The Pastor comes up onto the platform and shakes Jerry's hand and leads him off as if he's praying with him. Meanwhile the service begins as the church pianist sits at piano, begins playing "You Are My King: Amazing Love")

(Praise team and choir enter as Tom sings the first verse. The praise team and choir join in.)

END

Length approx. 9 minutes