

Commissioned by the First Presbyterian Church of Haddon Heights, NJ
commemorating and honoring the retirement of Marjorie Wendler
after 37 years of creative, thoughtful music leadership

Hold On to the Rock

SATB a cappella and Solo with optional Piano

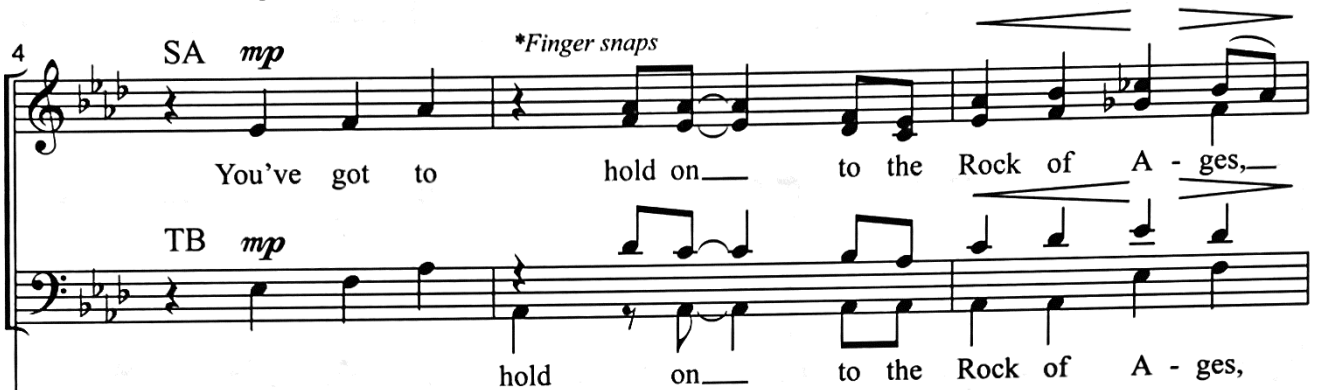
Words and Music by
Pepper Choplin

Gospel swing ♩ = ca. 112



opt. accomp. mp

The piano introduction consists of two staves in 4/4 time, key of B-flat major. The right hand plays a series of chords and single notes, while the left hand plays a rhythmic bass line. The tempo is marked as 'Gospel swing' with a quarter note equal to approximately 112 beats per minute.



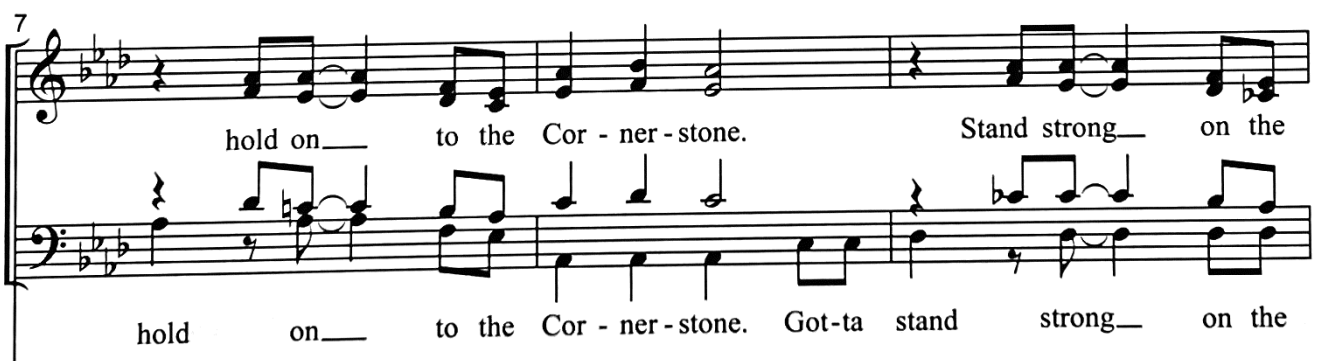
4 SA mp *Finger snaps
You've got to hold on to the Rock of A - ges,

TB mp
hold on to the Rock of A - ges,

The vocal and piano accompaniment for measures 4-6. The Soprano (SA) and Tenor (TB) parts are in 4/4 time. The piano accompaniment continues with a similar pattern to the introduction. The lyrics are: 'You've got to hold on to the Rock of A - ges,' for the Soprano and 'hold on to the Rock of A - ges,' for the Tenor. A note indicates '*Finger snaps' on measures 4 and 6.



The piano accompaniment for measures 4-6, continuing the rhythmic and harmonic pattern established in the introduction.



7
hold on to the Cor - ner - stone. Stand strong on the

hold on to the Cor - ner - stone. Got - ta stand strong on the

The vocal and piano accompaniment for measures 7-9. The lyrics continue: 'hold on to the Cor - ner - stone. Stand strong on the' for the Soprano and 'hold on to the Cor - ner - stone. Got - ta stand strong on the' for the Tenor.



The piano accompaniment for measures 7-9, continuing the rhythmic and harmonic pattern.

*Whenever finger snaps or handclaps are indicated, they are to occur on beats 2 and 4.

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Handclaps
mf

17

hold on_____ to the Rock. Hold on_____ to the

got-ta hold on_____ to the Rock. You've got to hold on_____ to the

mf *mf*

20

Rock of A - ges,_____ hold on_____ to the Cor - ner - stone.

Rock of A - ges, hold on_____ to the Cor - ner - stone. Got-ta

23

Stand strong_____ on the Sure Foun - da - tion,_____

stand strong_____ on the Sure Foun - da - tion,

25

sur - round - ed by the For - tress strong.

sur - round - ed by the For - tress strong. And - (uh)

27

When all the storms of life are rag - ing,

when all the storms of life of rag - ing,

29

f Stop handclaps hold on, _____

f hold on, _____ hold on, _____ hold on, _____ to the

f hold on, _____ got - ta hold on _____ to the

32

Soloist

mf

You know that it does - n't take a

SA

mp Finger snaps

Rock.

Hold on, —

TB

mp

Rock.

mp

34

might - y earth - quake to shake the ground you stand_

hold on, —

hold on, — you got - ta

36

— on! 'cause life can change, like a hur - ri - cane and

ho - (woh)ld on. Hold on, hold on,

39

blow all the plans you planned on. Well, the

hold on, you got - ta ho - (woh)ld on.

mf

41

ground is gon - na shake and the wind is gon-na blow.____

Hold on,____ hold on!____ Now tell me

Soloist joins choir

43 SA *f* Stop finger snaps.

who you gon - na trust and - (uh) where you gon-na go?____ You got - ta

TB *f* who you gon - na trust and - (uh) where you gon-na go?____ You got - ta

45 *Handclaps*

hold on to the Rock of Ages,

hold on to the Rock of Ages,

47

hold on to the Corner-stone.

hold on to the Corner-stone. Got-ta

49

Stand strong on the Sure Foundation,

stand strong on the Sure Foundation,

51

sur - round - ed by the For - tress strong.

sur - round - ed by the For - tress strong. And - (uh)

53

When all the storms of life are rag - ing,

when all the storms of life of rag - ing,

Stop handclaps
hold on,

55

hold on, hold on, hold on, hold on, to the

hold on, got - ta hold on to the

58 Soloist *mf*
You know some - times when life is eas -

SA *mp* Finger snaps
Rock. Hold on, —

TB *mp*
Rock.

mf *mp*

60
- y, it's so eas - y to keep the faith,

hold on, — hold on, — you got - ta

62

to be grate-ful for ev - 'ry bless - ing, when ev-'ry

ho-(woh)ld on! Hold on, hold on,

65

bless-ing comes our way. But when life shakes us to our

hold on, you got - ta ho-(woh)ld on! Life shakes us to our

mf *cresc.*

mf *cresc.*

mf

68 *f*

ver - y — soul, — who you gon - na trust and - (uh)

f Stop finger snaps.

ver - y — soul, — who you gon - na trust and - (uh)

and - (uh)

f

and - (uh)

70 Soloist joins choir

where you gon-na go? — You got - ta

Handclaps

where you gon-na go? — You got - ta hold on — to the

where you gon-na go? — You got - ta hold on — to the

72

Rock of A - ges, hold on to the Cor - ner - stone. Got-ta

75

Stand strong on the Sure Foun - da - tion, sur - round - ed by the

78

For - tress strong. When all the storms of life are rag - ing,
For - tress strong. And-(duh) when all the storms of life of rag - ing,

Stop handclaps

hold on, _____



9 781429 13902

81

hold on, _____

hold on, _____ hold on, _____ hold on _____ to the

hold on, _____ got-ta hold on _____ to the

84

sub. mp (hushed)

Rock. You've got to hold on _____ to the Rock. You've got to

sub. mp *f*

Rock. You've got to hold on _____ to the Rock.

sub. mp *f*

87

Rock, *molto rit.* to the Rock!

hold on to the Rock, hold on to the Rock!

Rock, hold on to the Rock!

ff

(straight 8ths)