

There is a Balm in Gilead (with “What a Friend We have in Jesus”)

### Arranger’s Comments

I’m writing this as the world begins to feel the effects of the coronavirus. I wanted to offer pieces musicians could play or sing to give them a release as well as comfort in the confines of their homes.

Going back 100 years in history, it was entertainment that sustained the sanity of the population during World War I, The Great Depression and World War II. An afternoon escape to the movies where everything turned out okay in the end or a song about hope such as *Look for the Silver Lining* soothed people and gave them a chance to smile or laugh for a bit. Celebrities put on shows for the troops to give them a lift. The cinema, music, and entertainment were balms to soothe the people.

I first heard *There is a Balm in Gilead* when my high school choir sang it. The beautiful soaring melody made it one of my favorites that season. My friend, Michelle, had the solo where she sang the verses and I was in awe.

I chose particular lyrics from ...*Balm in Gilead* with *What a Friend We Have in Jesus* because they create a collage of hope.

I hope you enjoy playing or singing this arrangement. I will be working on more like this from religious to popular tunes (from the earlier part of the 20th century) to original compositions.

You can visit my public Facebook page, Cathy Stamegna, for updates and snippets of new uploads.

C. Stamegna

\*Gilead is mentioned in the Bible. It is a place known for a perfume (the balm of Gilead) that is used as medicine.