

*Joseph Bertolozzi, "Hymn" (2000)*

"Hymn" is a rare example of a text by Edgar Allan Poe in a religious vein. First published in April 1835 in the *Southern Literary Messenger*, it was sung by the heroine of the tale "Morella," a practitioner of black magic. She prayed to Mary, the Mother of God since medieval stories recounted Mary rescuing repentant witches who couldn't pray to God directly. The poem addresses Mary, thanking her for hearing her prayers and pleading for a bright future. In some variants the word "Hours" is capitalized, perhaps referencing the Catholic Liturgy of the Hours, where one prays eight times a day at regular times. It was later published as a stand-alone poem as "A Catholic Hymn" in 1845 in the *Broadway Journal*. When included in the 1845 collection "The Raven and Other Poems" it was condensed into one stanza with the word "Catholic" crossed out.

**Joseph Bertolozzi** forges a unique identity as a twenty-first century musician. His music is performed in concert halls and conservatories, and he himself has played at such diverse venues as The Vatican and The US Tennis Open. His two most recent albums, *Tower Music*, using the Eiffel Tower in Paris itself as his instrument, and *Bridge Music*, using New York's Mid-Hudson Bridge, were both top twenty selling albums on the Billboard Classical Charts. He also has a large body of sacred music for both Christian and Jewish worship. Read more at [josephbertolozzi.com](http://josephbertolozzi.com).