



How Firm A Foundation

J. Ellis

♪ Niveau 45/100 (Ambitieux)

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Side Notes: The night before my dad passed away, I received a frantic phone call from my mom who was stuck in a hospital in New York. My parents had just finished a Baltic cruise and when they landed at JFK, my dad, who had been healthy before then, had to be taken by ambulance to the hospital. The next morning I was headed to New York on the first flight out of Salt Lake to be with my mom and dad, but somewhere over Colorado and Kansas I could feel, and knew the moment that dad passed away. I don't know how, but I just knew. That feeling and timing was confirmed when I landed and was able to turn on my phone.

Over the next week as we prepared for the funeral, I spent some time sitting down at the piano and wrote an arrangement of Amazing Grace mixed with this tune. While in the air flying and while writing music out during that week, the words from this hymn kept coming to my mind: "Fear not, I am with thee; oh be not dismayed, For I am thy God and will still give thee aid. I'll strengthen thee, help thee, and cause thee to stand, Upheld by my righteous, omnipotent hand."

Throughout that difficult time, I always felt that both my earthly father and Heavenly Father were still there watching over me and my family. When you lose a loved one, I think there are often several tender mercies that allow you to recognize that we have many people who love us and are waiting for us on the other side.

My hope is that when we do pass through trials and have our faith tried, our foundation and faith in Christ will be strong enough to weather the storms of life and when it is our turn to pass to the other side, we'll be able to keep our head held high and know we gave our best effort and can arrive to our real home with no regrets.

How Firm a Foundation

Arr. JASON TONIOLI

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laid for your faith in His ex - cel - lent word! What

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Lyrics attributed to Robert Keen, ca. 1787

Music attributed to J. Ellis, ca. 1889