

Song Story #26 – *How Great You Are*

As is the case with many people who live in the north like we do, vacationing near a beach in Florida is one of our favorite things to do. I've always loved the ocean – the sound of the waves, the sense of endless horizon, the sunsets, the amazing clouds and storms and so much more. There is a beauty and serenity all around as you hear the waves splash onto the sand.

“How Great You Are” was inspired by that setting. As I was soaking up the sunsets and the beauty of that setting, this first verse began to form in my mind. I was marveling at the turning of the earth that causes night and day and gives us the amazing sunrises and sunsets. I was in awe of how the moon is placed just right in the sky so that its different phases affect the ebb and flow of the tides. I pondered how the sun is placed precisely so that we are warmed but not burned up or frozen. I was marveling at the beautiful blue skies and also how the massive clouds build up to water the earth. I was also inspired by Psalm 19 and how it says “The heavens declare the glory of God, the skies proclaim the work of His hands. Day after day they pour forth speech; night after night they reveal knowledge.”

The second verse was inspired by the music itself. In this setting and expressing these words, Bossa Nova music felt like the perfect medium to capture this setting and this topic. There is always a new song rolling around in my head and I'm so thankful for that. But there is also music in the air in nature. In writing this verse I flashed back to my Minnesota/Wisconsin home life and how, in the summer, the crickets fill the night air with their beautiful songs by rubbing their feet against their wings. If I had had room for more lyrics I would have loved to write about the songs of the frogs, the birds, the sound of a stream and so much more! But I think this song was able to catch some of the wonders of God's creation in both lyrics and music and bring Him some of the worship He deserves for being such a marvelous Creator!

Bringing this song to our talented Heart of the City Band brought this song together in such a great way! Peter Shu's amazing keyboard work and Joyce Perez's beautiful Portuguese solo along with what everyone else brought to the song, made it the beautiful song that it is!

Here is a link to the video on YouTube: [How Great You Are \(Bossa Nova Worship\) - OFFICIAL VIDEO - Heart of the City Band \(youtube.com\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=...)

How Great You Are

Dan Adler

Translated by Joyce Perez and Amanda Cariús

1. You cause the earth to turn and make the sun to burn
How great You are! How great You are!
You paint the sky so blue, create the rainclouds too
How great You are! How great You are!
You made the moon to hide and change the oceans tide
You spread the universe so far
Heaven and earth declare how great, how great You are!

2. There's music in the air because You put it there
How great You are! How great You are!
You fill my heart with song. I hear it all day long
How great You are! How great You are!

The crickets rub their wings and then the nighttime sings
Until it wakes the morning star
All of creation sings how great, how great You are!

CHORUS: How great You are! How great You are!
Your love reaches higher than even the highest star
How great You are! How great You are!
I join with creation to say how great You are!

PORTUGUESE :

1. A terra faz girar e o sol fazes queimar
Quão grande és Tu! Quão grande és Tu!
De azul o céu pintou, e as nuvens desenhou
Quão grande és Tu! Quão grande és Tu!
E a lua se esconder, as ondas faz crescer
Tao lindo o universo Ele criou
A terra e o céu proclamam, quão grande és Tu!

Chorus: Quão grande és Tu! Quão grande és Tu!
Teu imenso amor e mais alto que a estrela do céu
Quão grande és Tu! Quão grande és Tu!
Com a criação eu declaro, quão grande és Tu!
Quão grande és Tu! How great You are!

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