

MS Death of Charles Worgan¹

(drafts 1 & 2)

John Worgan (1724–90) was one of the most famous organists of his day. He was friends with the Charles Wesley family, and tutor to Charles Wesley Jr. on the organ. It is possible that the Charles Worgan commemorated in this manuscript funeral hymn was a son of John Worgan, born about 1760. Otherwise, his identity is unknown.

There are two looseleaf drafts of this manuscript hymn (in addition to the polished version present in *MS Funeral Hymns*), both held at the Methodist Archive and Research Centre. Transcripts of both drafts are provided below with permission of the Librarian and Director, The John Rylands Library, The University of Manchester.

¹This document was produced by the Duke Center for Studies in the Wesleyan Tradition under the editorial direction of Randy L. Maddox, with the diligent assistance of Aileen F. Maddox.
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**On the Death of
Charles Worgan, aged 17 or 18.¹**
[draft 1]

- [1.] Blooming Innocent, adieu!
Lovely, transitory Flower!
Faded is thy youthful hue,
Ended is thy morning hour!
Death hath seal'd thy sleeping eyes,—
Opening now²—in paradise!
2. Ravish'd hence by Sovereign LOVE,
Wing'd with empyrean fire,
Soars thy Soul to realms above,
Mingles with th' immortal-quire,³
Hears the Music of the Spheres,
All th' heavenly⁴ Harpers hears.
3. Happy⁵ Harmonist, to Thee
Sovereign Love assigns a place,
Crowns thy spotless Purity
Decks thy head with brighter rays,
Bids thee join the Virgin throng,
Chant th' inimitable Song.
4. Passing thro' this mortal Vale,
Lo, we after Thee aspire
Where Thou dost their triumphs swell,
Raise their highest raptures higher,
Sing the glorious One in Three,
Shout thro' all Eternity!

¹MARC, DDCW 6/78. Appears also in draft 2 (below) and MS Funeral Hymns, 72. Published posthumously in *Poetical Works*, 6:365; and *Representative Verse*, 324.

²Ori., “~~Open'd them.~~”

³Ori., “~~angel~~-quire.”

⁴Ori., “~~heavenly,~~” then changed to “~~angelic,~~” then changed back to “heavenly.”

⁵Ori., “~~heavenly.~~”

**On the Death of
Mr. Charles Worgan.¹**
[draft 2]

1. Blooming Innocence, adieu!
Lovely, transitory Flower,
Faded is thy youthful hue,
Ended is thy morning hour!
Death hath closed thy sleeping eyes —
Opening now — in paradise.
2. Ravish'd hence by sovereign LOVE,
Wing'd with empyrean fire,
Soars thy soul to joys above,
Mingled with th' immortal quire,
Hears the music of the spheres,
All those heavenly harpers hears.
3. Happy harmonist, to Thee
Sovereign LOVE assigns a place,
Crowns thy spotless Purity,
Decks thy head with brighter rays,
Bids thee join the Virgin throng,
Chant th' Inimitable Song. (Rev. 14)
4. Hastning thro' this mortal vale,
Lo! we after thee aspire,
Where thou dost their triumph swell,
Raise their highest raptures higher;
Sing the glorious One in Three,
Shout thro' all eternity!

¹MARC, DDCW 3/3a. Appears also in draft 1 (above) and MS Funeral Hymns, 72. Published posthumously in *Poetical Works*, 6:365; and *Representative Verse*, 324.