

**Prepare the Way, O Zion**  
**My Jesus, I Love Thee**  
**Blessed Assurance**

**arranged by Dale Wood (1934-2003)**

Dale Wood was born in Glendale, California of Finnish-Polish parentage (his father's last name was Wojtkiewicz, which immigration authorities shortened to Wood). Most of his vast array of organ works were composed at The Sea Ranch, 115 miles north of San Francisco, amidst acres of redwood trees and gentle meadows on the rural and spectacular coastline of Northern California. Some of his original melodies sound uncannily like ancient folk tunes. In 1992 in "Softly and tenderly, Volume 1, he wrote, "The tunes gathered in this collection all stem from unpretentious origins. They are etched into the memory and never fail to appear in national polls which name favorite hymns of the people. The melodic appeal which is at the very heart of these hymns suggests organ settings which are direct and uncomplicated, and it would seem inappropriate to garb such simple tunes in formal attire."



Dale Wood with blind jazz pianist George Shearing  
at The Sea Ranch in January 1977

