

My heart doth take in hand

The Whole Booke of Psalms (1621), Psalme 45

Thomas RAVENSCROFT (1590-1633)

The musical score is arranged in two systems. The first system includes parts for CANTVS, MEDIVS, TENOR or Playnsong, and BASSVS. The second system includes parts for S. (Soprano), A. (Alto), T. (Tenor), and B. (Bass). The lyrics are: "My heart doth take in hand, some god - ly song to sing: The praise that I shall shew there - in per - tain - eth to the King." The score includes a "Ludlow Tune" for the Tenor part and a triplet of eighth notes in the Soprano part.

2. My tongue shall be as quick
his honour to indite:
As is the pen of any Scribe,
that useth fast to write.

3. O fairest of all men,
thy speech is perfect pure:
For God hath blessed thee with gifts,
for ever to endure.

4. About thee gird thy sword,
O Prince of might elect:
With honour, glory and renown,
thy person pure is decked.

5. Go forth with goodly speed,
in meekness, truth and right:
And thy right hand shall thee instruct,
in works of dreadfull might.
Thine arrows sharp and keen,
their hearts so sore shall sting:
That folk shall fall and kneel to thee,
yea, all thy foes O King.

7. Thy royal seat O Lord,
for ever shall remain:
Because the Scepter of thy realme,
doth righteousness maintain.

8. Because thou lovest the right,
and dost the ill detest,
God, even thy God hath noited thee
with joy above the rest.

9. With myrrhe and favours sweet,
thy clothes are all bespread:
When thou dost from thy palace pass,
therein to make thee glad.

10. Kings daughters do attend,
in fine and rich aray,
At thy right hand the Queen doth stand,
in gold and garments gay.

The Second part.

11. O daughter take good heed,
incline and give good ear:
Thou must forget thy kindred all,
and fathers house most dear.

12. Then shall the king desire
thy beauty fair and trim:
For why? he is the Lord thy God,
and thou must worship him.

13. The daughters then of Ture,
with gifts full rich to see:
And all the wealthy of the Land,
shall make their sute to thee.

14. The daughter of the King,
is glorious to behold:
Within her closet she doth sit,
all decked in beaten gold.

15. In robes well wrought with needle,
and many a pleasant thing:
With Virgins fair on her to wait,
she commeth to the King.

16. Thus are they brought with joy,
and mirth on every side,
Into the palace of the King,
and there they do abide.

17. In stead of Parents left,
O Queen the chance so stands:
Thou shalt have sons whom thou mayest set
as Princes in all Lands.

18. Wherefor thy holy name,
all ages shall record:
Thy people shall give thanks to thee,
for evermore O Lord.

Critical notes:

Editorial natural added in Cantus bar 3, note 8;

Text somewhat modernised.