

# Lord save me from the evill man

The Whole Booke of Psalmes (1621) - Psalme 140

Thomas RAVENSCROFT (1590 - 1633)

The musical score is arranged for five parts: CANTVS (Cantus), MEDIVS (Medius), TENOR (Tenor), BASSVS (Bassus), and SATB (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass). The SATB part begins with a triplet of notes. The lyrics are: "Lord save me from the e - vil man, and from the cru - el wight. De - li - ver me, which e - vil do i - ma - gine in their sp'rit." The score includes a reference to "Wels or Glasenbury Tune".

Which make on me continual war,  
 their tongues, lo, they have whet.  
 3. Like serpents underneath their lips  
 is adders' poison set.  
 4. Keep me (O Lord) from wicked hands  
 preserve me to abide  
 Free from the cruel man that means  
 to cause my steps to slide.  
 5. The proud have laid a snare for me,  
 and they have spread a net:  
 Which cords, in my pathways, and gins  
 for me eke have they set.

6. Therefore I said unto the Lord,  
 thou art my God alone  
 Hear me O Lord, O hear my voice,  
 wherewith I pray and moan.  
 7. O Lord my God thou only art  
 the strength that saveth me:  
 My head in day of battle hath  
 been covered still by thee.  
 8. Let not O Lord the wicked have  
 the end of his desire:  
 Perform not his ill thought, lest he  
 with pride be set on fire.  
 9. Of them that compass me about,  
 the chiefest of them all:  
 Lord let the mischief of their lips,  
 upon themselves befall.

10. Let coals on them fall, let him cast  
 them in consuming flame:  
 And in deep pits, so as they may  
 not rise out of the same.  
 11. For no backbiters shall on earth,  
 be set in stable plight:  
 And evil to destruction still  
 shall haunt the cruel wight.  
 12. I know the Lord th' afflicted will  
 revenge and judge the poor.  
 The just shall praise thy name, just shall  
 dwell with thee evermore.

Critical notes:  
 this setting is similar to the ones of Psalms 19 & 63;  
 Text somewhat modernised.