

ANCIENT GROOVE MUSIC

ORLANDO GIBBONS

(1583-1625)

O thou, the central orb

Edited by

BEN BYRAM-WIGFIELD

For SAATB chorus, with SSA soli,
5 viols and/or organ.

SCORE



www.ancientgroove.co.uk

EDITORIAL NOTES

Gibbons wrote the verse anthem *O all true faithful hearts* in 1619 as 'a thanksgiving for the King's happy recovery from a great dangerous sickness'.

Opportunities to perform the work 'meaningfully' are slim, given the requirement for a male monarch to fall ill and recover; so in the 1860s, Sir Frederick Gore Ouseley commissioned Revd H.R. Bramley to provide a more liturgically useful text. Bramley adapted a meditation on the Advent Prose *O Oriens* by Richard M. Benson, which starts with the words *O thou, the central orb of righteousness*.

Ouseley's edition of 1873 fatefully contains a mistake in the text, rhyming the word 'day' with itself — the poetical equivalent of a consecutive fifth. (The unlikely alternative of 'clay' has been suggested.) However, an anthem book in Durham Cathedral of 1871 contains the text of Bramley's poem, and gives 'transforming ray' as the rhyme, which better fits the imagery of light throughout. (Benson's original poem also rhymes 'day' with 'ray'.) It is listed under settings by Gibbons, so Durham must have already obtained copies of Ouseley's *contrafactum*.

The surviving source (Ox. Ch.Ch. Ms 21) is for voices with viol accompaniment. The organ part here is therefore an editorial construction, based on the viol parts, but with alterations made to allow playing on manuals only, and to simplify unnecessary complexity in the voicing.

This edition alters some underlay, to match the fall of syllables in the original text. Original note values have been preserved, and the music transposed up a tone.

62: The source marks this passage 'Verse', though it has the texture of a Chorus, with all parts singing.

Viol parts and other transpositions are available on request.

Ben Byram-Wigfield
London, 2023

ANCIENT GROOVE MUSIC

O thou, the central orb

Edited by
Ben Byram-Wigfield

ORLANDO GIBBONS
(1583 - 1625)

(♩ = 92)

Medius

Contra-tenor 1

Contra-tenor 2

Tenor

Bass

Verse

O thou the cen - tral orb of righ - teous

(♩ = 92)

Verse

Organ

7

love, Pure beam of the most high, e - ter - nal light of this our win - try world;

O thou, the central orb

12

— Thy_ ra - diance bright a - - wakes new joy in faith: hope soars a -

16

Full
Come, quick - ly come, and let, and let thy

Full
Come, quick-ly come, and let, and let thy glo - ry shine,

Full
-bove, hope soars a - bove. Come, quick-ly come, and let, and let thy glo - ry, —

Full
Come quick - ly come, and let, and let thy glo - ry,

Full
Come quick - ly come, and let, and let thy glo - ry,

Full

23

glo - - ry shine; Gild - ing our dark - some heav'n with rays di - vine.

thy glo - ry shine; Gild - ing our dark - some heav'n with rays di - - - vine.

— thy glo - ry shine; Gild - ing our dark - some heav'n with rays di - - - vine.

glo - ry shine; Gild - - ing our dark - some heav'n with rays di - - - vine.

glo - ry shine; Gild - ing our dark - some heav'n with rays di - - - vine.

28

Verse

Thy Saints with ho - - ly lus - tre round thee move as stars, round thee move as

Thy Saints with ho - ly, ho - ly lus - tre round thee move as stars

33

stars a - bout thy throne, set in the height of God's or - dain - ing coun - sel, as thy

a - bout thy throne, set in the height of God's or - dain - ing coun -

38

sight gives mea-sur'd grace to each, thy pow'r to prove.

- sel, as thy sight gives mea-sur'd grace to each, thy pow'r, thy pow'r— to prove.

43

Full

Come, quick - ly come, and let, and let thy glo - - - ry

Full

Come, quick - ly come, and let, and let thy glo - ry shine, thy glo - ry

Full

Come, quick - ly come, and let, and let thy glo - ry, thy glo - ry

Full

Come quick - ly come, and let, and let thy glo - ry, glo - ry

Full

Come quick - ly come, and let, and let thy glo - ry, glo - ry

Full

49

shine; Gild - ing our dark - some heav'n with rays di - vine.

shine; Gild - ing our dark - some heav'n with rays di - - - vine.

shine; Gild - ing our dark - some heav'n with rays di - - - vine.

shine; Gild - - ing our dark - some heav'n with rays di - - - vine.

shine; Gild - ing our dark - some heav'n with rays di - - - vine.

53

Verse Decani

Let thy bright beams dis - perse the gloom, — the gloom of sin: our na - ture, our

Verse Cantoris

Let thy bright beam dis - - perse the gloom of sin: — our na - ture, our na - ture

Musical score for measures 53-57. The score includes vocal lines for Decani and Cantoris, and piano accompaniment for the right and left hands. The key signature is D major (two sharps) and the time signature is common time (C).

58

na - ture all shall — feel, our na - ture all shall feel e - ter - - nal day

all — shall feel, shall feel e - - ter - nal day

Musical score for measures 58-62. The score includes vocal lines for Decani and Cantoris, and piano accompaniment for the right and left hands. The key signature is D major (two sharps) and the time signature is common time (C).

62

Full

In fel-low-ship with thee,

Full

In fel-low-ship with thee,

Full

In fel-low-ship with thee, with thee, in fel-low-ship with

Full

In fel-low-ship with thee, with thee, in fel-low-

Full

In fel-low-ship with thee,

Full

In fel-low-ship with thee,

66

in fel-low-ship with thee, trans-form-ing ray to__

in fel-low-ship with thee, trans-form-ing ray to__

thee, trans-form-ing ray,

-ship with thee, trans-form-ing ray to souls,

trans-form-ing ray to__ souls ere-while

in fel-low-ship with thee, trans-form-ing ray to__ souls, ere-while

71

— souls, ere-while un-clean, now pure with-in, with-in,
 now pure with-in, with-in,
 — ere-while un-clean, now pure with-in, now pure with-in, with-in
 un - - - clean, now pure with-in, now pure with-in, with-in,
 un - - - clean, to souls, ere-while un - clean, now pure with-

75

now pure with-in, now pure with-in, pure with-in.
 now pure with-in, now pure with-in.
 -in, now pure with-in, with-in, now pure with-in.
 now pure with-in, now pure with-in.
 -in, with-in, now pure with-in, with-in.

79

Come, quick - ly come, and let, and let thy glo - - - ry

Come, quick - ly come, and let, and let thy glo - ry shine, thy glo - ry

Come, quick - ly come, and let, and let thy glo - ry, thy glo - ry

Come quick - ly come, and let, and let thy glo - ry, glo - ry

Come quick - ly come, and let, and let thy glo - ry, glo - ry

Full

85

shine; Gild - ing our dark - some heav'n with rays di - vine.

shine; Gild - ing our dark - some heav'n with rays di - - - vine.

shine; Gild - ing our dark - some heav'n with rays di - - - vine.

shine; Gild - - ing our dark - some heav'n with rays di - - - vine.

shine; Gild - ing our dark - some heav'n with rays di - - - vine.

