

ANCIENT GROOVE MUSIC

O thou, the central orb

Words adapted by
H.R. Bramley

CHARLES WOOD

Slow

f

Soprano

O thou, the cen-tral orb of righ - - teous

Alto

O thou, the cen-tral orb of righ - - teous

Tenor

O thou, the cen-tral orb of righ - teous

Bass

O thou, the cen-tral orb of righ - teous

Organ

f *Gt. to Sw.*

Ped. senza Ped.

6

mf

love, Pure beam of the Most High, e - ter - - - nal light Of this our

mf

love, Pure beam of the Most High, e - ter - nal light Of this our

mf

love, Pure beam of the Most High, e - ter - nal light Of this our

mf

love, Pure beam of the Most High, e - ter - nal light Of this our

Organ

mf

Ped. senza Ped.

O thou, the central orb

11 *dim.* *p* *f*

win - - try - world; thy ra-diance bright A-wakes new joy _____ in

dim. *p* *f*

win - - try world; thy ra-diance bright _____ A-wakes new joy _____ in

dim. *p* *f*

win - try _____ world; thy ra-diance bright _____ A-wakes new joy in

dim. *p* *f*

win - try world; thy ra - diance bright _____ A-wakes new joy _____ in

dim. *p* *f*

Ped. *senza Ped.*

16 *ff* *poco rit. a tempo*

faith: _____ hope _____ soars _____ a - bove, _____ a - bove.

ff

faith: hope soars a - bove, _____ soars _____ a - - bove.

ff

faith: hope soars a - - bove, soars _____ a - bove.

ff

faith: hope soars a - bove, hope soars a - - bove.

poco rit. a tempo

21 **BASS** *mp* *espress.*

Come, quick - ly come, and

dim. *Sw. p*

25

let thy glo - ry shine; gild - ing our dark - some heav'n with rays — di -

29 *p* *mf*

Thy saints with ho - - - ly lus - - tre round — thee move, As

p *mf*

Thy saints with ho - - - ly lus - - tre round — thee move, As

p *mf*

Thy saints with ho - - ly lus - tre round thee move, As stars a -

p *mf*

-vine. with ho - ly lus - tre round thee move, As

p Ch. *Gt. mp*

senza Ped. *Ped.*

34

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

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

-bout thy throne, set in the height Of God's or - dain - ing

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

38

coun-sel, as thy sight Gives mea-sur'd grace to each,

coun-sel, as thy sight Gives mea-sur'd grace, gives grace to each,

coun-sel, as thy sight Gives mea-sur'd grace, gives grace to each,

coun-sel, Gives mea-sur'd grace to each,

Ch. p

Sw. P

senza Ped.

Ped.

43

p

thy pow'r to prove.

p

thy pow'r to prove.

p

thy pow'r to prove.

p

thy pow'r to prove.

47

f

Let thy bright beams dis - perse the gloom of —

f

Let thy bright beams dis - perse the gloom of

f

Let thy bright beams dis - perse the gloom of

f

Let thy bright beams dis - perse the gloom of

dim. *f Gt.*

senza Ped.

52

mf

sin: Our na - ture all shall feel e - ter - - - nal day, In

mf

sin: Our na - ture all shall feel e - ter - - - nal day, In

mf

sin: Our na - ture all shall feel e - ter - - - nal day, In

mf

sin: Our na - ture all shall feel e - ter - - - nal day, In

mf

Ped. senza Ped.

57

dim. *p* *f*

fel - low - ship with thee, trans - form - ing ray To souls ere - - while un -

dim. *p* *f*

fel - low - ship with thee, trans - form - ing ray To souls ere - while un -

dim. *p* *f*

fel - low - ship with thee, trans - form - ing ray To souls ere - while un -

dim. *p* *f*

fel - low - ship with thee, trans - form - ing ray To souls ere - while un -

dim. *p* *f*

Ped. senza Ped.

62

- clean, now pure, now pure with - in, now pure with -

- clean, now pure, now pure with - in, now pure with -

- clean, now pure, now pure with - in, now pure with -

- clean, now pure, now pure, with - in, now pure with -

Ped.

68

- in. A - - - - men.

- in. A - - - - men.

- in. A - - - - men.

- in. A - - - - men.

allargando al fine

sempre ff

ANCIENT GROOVE MUSIC

EDITORIAL NOTES

Charles Wood: O thou, the central orb

This edition is page-for-page match of the original 1915 publication. The provision of cautionary accidentals has been revised slightly, and the bracketed dynamic in bar 40 has been added.

Wood took the text created by Henry R. Bramley for Frederick Gore Ouseley's contrafactum of Gibbons' verse anthem, *O All True Faithful Hearts*. Bramley adapted a poem by Richard M. Benson, published in *Lyra Mystica* in 1865.

Tragically, Ouseley's 1873 edition of collected works by Gibbons included a misprint, in which 'eternal day' was rhymed with 'transforming day'. Wood copied the error into his manuscript. (Suggestions that he wrote 'clay' in his manuscript should be resisted.)

A book of *Anthems Sung at Durham Cathedral Church*, dated 1871, contains Bramley's poem (under works by Gibbons), and gives the correct text, of 'transforming ray', which better fits the imagery used throughout the poem.

523

ADVENT. ALTO SOLO.

O Thou, the central orb of righteous love,
Pure beam of the Most High, eternal Light
Of this our wintry world ; thy radiance bright
Awakes new joy in faith : hope soars above.

CHORUS.

Come, quickly come, and let thy glory shine ;
Gilding our darksome heaven with rays divine.

DUET, TREBLE AND ALTO.

Thy saints with holy lustre round thee move,
As stars about thy throne, set in the height
Of God's ordaining counsel, as thy sight
Gives measured grace to each, thy power to prove.

CHORUS.

Come, quickly come (*as before*).

DUET, TWO TREBLES.

Let thy bright beams disperse the gloom of sin :
Our nature all shall feel eternal day

VERSE, SIX VOICES.

In fellowship with thee, transforming ray
To souls, erewhile unclean, now pure within.

CHORUS.

Come, quickly come (*as before*).

Amen.

Gibbons.

This edition seeks to correct the error that has persisted for over a century!

Ben Byram-Wigfield
London, 2023