

Thomas Tallis

c.1505-1585

If Ye Love Me

ed. Michael Winter

for four voices - SATB

Edited from John Day's *Certaine notes set
forthe in foure and three partes*

If Ye Love Me is perhaps one of the most well-known pieces in the English choral repertory. The anthem first appears in the 'Wanley Partbooks' (Bodleian, Oxford, Mus. Sch e. 420) dating from c. 1548-50. However, the tenor volume from this partbook set is missing and therefore this piece has been edited from its first appearance in print which is in John Day's 1565 publication *Certaine notes set forthe in foure and three partes* (n.b. parts of this publication appear in 1560).

Tallis was one of the first composers to set English text to music for services in the new reformed church and this is typical of many other pieces composed in period immediately after the English Reformation. It has an ABB structure and it abides by Edward IV's new instructions that choral music must be brief and succinct: 'to each syllable a plain and distinct note.' The only melismas in this piece come at cadences.

Editorial Notes:

Source: John Day, *Certaine notes set forthe in foure and three partes*, London, 1560.

Text: Source spelling have been modernised. Editorial text repetitions are in italics.

Note Values: Original notes values have been retained.

Accidentals: No editorial accidentals are necessary; all accidentals are as they appear in the source.

Recommended Performance Pitch: as written (this edition is transposed up a fourth). Transpose as required.

Other notes: Some editions have the Tenor part rising to the third in the last bar. This does NOT appear in the source and has often been recklessly added by editors without justifying its addition.

Should you spot any errors, or would like a transposed version, please feel free to get in contact at michael_winter1@outlook.com

Michael Winter
St Albans
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Superius
If ye love me keep my co - mand - ments, and I will

Altus
If ye love me keep my co - mand - ments,

Tenor
If ye love me keep my co - mand - ments, and

Bassus
If ye love me keep my co - mand - ments,

6
S. pray the Fa - ther, and he shall give you

A. and I will pray the Fa - ther, and he shall give

T. I will pray the Fa - ther, and he shall give

B. and I will pray the Fa - ther, and he shall

11
S. a - no - ther com - fort - er,

A. you a - no - ther co - fort - er, that he may

T. you a - no - ther com - fort - er, that he may bide with you for

B. give you a - no - ther com - fort - er, that he may bide with

16

S. that he may bide with you for - ev - er,

A. bide with you for - ev - er, with you for - ev - er, ev'n the spirit of

T. 8 ev - ver that he may bide with you for ev - er, ev'n the spirit of truth, the

B. you for - ev - er, may bide with you for - ev - er, ev'n the spirit of

21

S. ev'n the spirit of truth, ev'n the spirit of

A. truth, ev'n the spirit of truth, ev'n the

T. 8 spirit of truth, ev'n the spirit of

B. truth, the spirit of truth ev'n

24

S. truth, ev'n the spirit of truth. 1. truth. 2. truth.

A. spirit of truth, ev'n the spirit of truth. truth.

T. 8 truth, the spirit of truth, the spirit of truth. that truth.

B. the spirit of truth, the spirit of truth. truth.