
William Byrd

O Lord, make
thy Servant

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O Lord, make thy Servant

Psalm 21 v.1-4 (Adapted).

William Byrd (c.1540 - 1623)

Musical score for the first system of 'O Lord, make thy Servant'. The score is for a choir and organ. The choir parts are Treble, Alto, Tenor, and Bass. The organ parts are two staves. The lyrics are: O Lord, make thy Ser - vant, thy Ser - vant Charles our. The music is in a key with three flats and a 3/4 time signature.

Musical score for the second system of 'O Lord, make thy Servant'. The score is for a choir and organ. The choir parts are Soprano (S), Alto (A), Tenor (T), and Bass (B). The organ parts are two staves. The lyrics are: King: to rejoice in thy Strength. Give him his heart's de - King: to re-joice in thy Strength. Give him his heart's de - sire: and King: to rejoice in thy Strength, in thy Strength. Give him his King: to re - joice, to re - joice, to re - joice in thy Strength. King: to re - joice, to re - joice, to re - joice in thy Strength. King: to rejoice in thy Strength. The music is in a key with three flats and a 3/4 time signature.

10

S
sire: and de - ny not the re-quest of his lips. Give him his heart's de -

A
de - ny not the re-quest of his lips, the re - quest of his lips. Give

A
heart's de - sire: and de - ny not the re - quest of his lips.

T
Give him his heart's de - sire: and de - ny not the re -

T
Give him his heart's de-sire: and de - ny not the request of his lips, the

B
Give him his heart's de - sire: and de - ny not the re-

15

S
sire: and de - ny not the re-quest of his lips, of his lips,

A
him his heart's de - sire: and de - ny not the re-quest of his lips, and

A
Give him his heart's de - sire: and de - ny not the re-quest of his lips,

T
quest of his lips. Give him his heart's de - sire: and de - ny not, and de - ny not the

T
re-quest of his lips, and de - ny not, and de - ny not the

B
quest of his lips. Give him his heart's de - sire: and de -

20

S and de - ny not the re - quest of his lips. But pre-vent¹

A de - ny not the re - quest of his lips, of his lips. But pre-vent¹

A and de - ny not the re - quest of his lips. But prevent¹

T re - quest of his lips, the re - - quest of his lips. But pre-vent¹

T re - quest of his lips, the re - - quest of his lips. But pre-vent¹

B ny not the re - quest of his lips, of his lips. But pre-vent¹

26

S him with thine e - ver - las - ting bles - sing, bles - sing, e - ver -

A him with thine e - ver - las - ting bles - sing: and give him a long life, ev'n for

A him with thine e - ver - las - ting bles - sing, with *thine e-verlasting bles-sing*:

T him with thine e - verlas - ting bles - sing: and give him a long

T him with thine e - verlas - ting bles - sing: and give him a long life, ev'n

B him with thine e - verlas - ting bles - sing, bles - sing:

¹ prevent: to go before, to precede.

31

S
las-ting bles - sing: and give him a long life, ev'n_ for e - ver and

A
e - ver, and e - ver, and give *him a long*

A
and give him a long life, ev'n_ for_ e - ver and e - ver, *ev'n_ for e - ver and*

T
life, e'vn for_ e - ver and e - ver, e'vn for e - ver and e - ver,

T
_ for e - ver and e - ver, and e - ver, and give him a

B
and give him a long life, ev'n_ for e - ver and e - ver, and

36

S
e - ver, and give him a long life, ev'n_ for

A
life, ev'n for e - ver, for e - ver and e - ver, and give *him a long* life, ev'n_

A
e - ver, and give him a long life, ev'n for e - ver and e - ver, ev'n for

T
and give *him a long* life, e'vn for e - ver and for e -

T
long life, ev'n for e - ver and e - ver, *and give him a long life, e'vn for e - ver and*

B
give him a long life, ev'n for e - ver and e - ver, and give him a long

41

S e - ver and e - ver, for e - ver and e - ver.

A - for e - ver and e - ver, and e - ver.

A e - ver, for e - ver and e - ver.

T ver, for e - ver and e - ver, for e - ver and e - ver.

T e - ver, for e - ver and e - ver, and e - ver.

B life, ev'n for e - ver, for e - ver and e - ver.

45

S A - - - - - men.

A A - - - - - men.

A A - - - - - men.

T A - - - - - men.

T A - - - - - men.

B A - - - - - men.

Text:

O Lord, make thy Servant Charles our King: to rejoice in thy Strength.
 Give him his heart's desire: and deny not the request of his lips.
 But prevent him with thine everlasting blessing: and give him a long life, ev'n for ever and ever.

Amen.

Notes:

Bar lengths have been standardised.
 Note values have not been halved.
 All accidentals and markings in brackets are editorial.
 Notes in small type are editorial.
 Musica ficta is inferred primarily from the manuscripts.
 Spelling and grammar has been modernised, but the original text setting has not been changed.

This edition is a reconstruction of a version of this anthem present in the Peterhouse Caroline partbooks. This version rededicates the work to the reigning monarch at the time the partbooks were inscribed, Charles I. In addition, there are a number of alterations to the music as presented in other sources of this work. This includes a complete set of musica ficta, some ornamentation to existing passages, some alteration of the musical lines, and some additional polyphonic entries in the Tenor and Countertenor parts. Unfortunately, a complete set of parts for this work do not survive in the Caroline Sets. However, the organ part does survive. This is relatively complete, and contains a significant amount of information about the internal parts. By combining this organ part with the surviving vocal parts in the Caroline Sets, and vocal parts from other sources, both those contemporary with these manuscripts and those that predate them, the editor has been able to reconstruct the Caroline version of this anthem to what he believes is a reasonable degree of accuracy.

The editor has provided a realisation of the organ part. This realisation simply consists of a reduction of the vocal parts, and is represented by notes written in small type. The accompanist should feel free to use this realisation, or to improvise one of their own, as may have been the custom of those playing from the original part.

Performers should feel free to substitute the name 'Charles' for the name of future monarchs, as appropriate; this appears to have been the custom in the period in which this work was written.

This edition is thankfully dedicated to M.E.F.B..

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Sources:

Peterhouse Partbooks: Former Caroline Set, The Perne Library, Peterhouse, Cambridge, GB-CP MSS 34, 38, 39, 47.

Peterhouse Partbooks: Latter Caroline Set, The Perne Library, Peterhouse, Cambridge, GB-CP MSS 36, 44.

Peterhouse Partbooks: Latter Caroline Set organ book, The Perne Library, Peterhouse, Cambridge, GB-CP MS 46.

John Barnard's Partbooks, Royal College of Music Library, London, GB-Lcm MSS 1045-1051.

Partbook (Tenor Decani), Queens' College Library, Cambridge, GB-Cqcl MS Old Library G.4.17.

The Dow Partbooks, Christ Church Library, Oxford, GB-Och MSS Mus. 984-988.