

UNTO THEE, O LORD

A Verse Anthem for SSAABB soli, SSAATB chorus & organ

Psalm 25, vv. 1-6

JOHN WARD (d.1638)
Reconstructed and Edited by
IAN PAYNE

VERSE
1 ALTO 1

VERSE

Un - to thee, O

Organ

Unto thee O Lord

*NB: copies may be purchased from Severinus Press, Hereford, England (www.severinus.co.uk)

5

A. 1

Lord, will I lift up my soul, will I lift

Org.

9

A. 1

up my soul: my God, I have put my trust in

Org.

13

A. 1

thee: O let me not be con -

Org.

16

A. 1

found - ed, nei - ther let mine e - ne - mies tri -

Org.

19

S. 1 For all they that hope in

S. 2 For all they that hope in

A. 1 umph o - ver me, tri-umpho - ver me.

A. 2 For all they that hope in

Org. 3 p[ar]ts:

24

S. 1 thee shall not be a - sham - ed: but such as trans - gress with - out a

S. 2 thee shall not be a - sham - ed: but such as trans -

A. 2 thee shall not be a - sham - ed: but such as trans - gress,

Org.

28

S. 1 cause, but such as trans - gress with - out a cause shall be put to con -

S. 2 gress, such as trans - gress with - out a cause shall be put to con -

A. 2 but such as trans - gress with - out a cause shall be put to con -

Org.

NOTE

Although John Ward (1590-1638) is best known today for his consort music and madrigals, he also composed a considerable quantity of sacred music, most of it in verse idiom. Some, with viols, was intended for domestic consumption; other works, however, have (or had) organ accompaniments and were clearly meant for liturgical use. This may seem surprising, since Ward was a household musician to the Fanshawe family rather than a professional church musician. But he trained as a chorister at Canterbury Cathedral; and in adult life was a prominent member of a musical circle centred on St Paul's Cathedral, London, and it may be conjectured that his music was written for performance there. *Unto thee O Lord*, though fragmentary, is one of several of his sacred compositions that was conceived on a very large scale. It is interesting, both for its musical quality, and because it is thematically related to Ward's fragmentary Second Service (a setting conceived on a similar scale) and was probably intended to be sung at the same service(s), possibly for some special occasion that has not yet been identified. (This is briefly discussed, with a chart showing some musical interrelationships, in Payne, 'The Sacred Vocal Works of John Ward', I, pp. 36-8. See below.)

The sole surviving text is preserved in the so-called Batten Organ Book (St Michael's College, Tenbury MS 791), an organ score now held at the Bodleian Library, Oxford, to whose Music Librarian the editor is grateful for permission to publish this edition. In this work, some verse-solo strands fit the verbal text well and seem to be given clearly and more or less complete; but the extent to which text should be set to other fragmentary lines, if at all, is uncertain; and substantial recomposition is required to complete both the verses and the choral texture.

Since no definitive edition of such fragmentary music is possible, the present version is not a critical edition of the organ score. This is a basic performing edition at original pitch: it is based on the critical transcription and commentary presented in my MA thesis (below). Standard editorial conventions are used: all additions in square brackets, small notes and symbols, and crossed ties (which are added sparingly) are editorial, but obvious copying errors are corrected without comment. Wherever possible, the division of the music between the two staves follows the original. Original verse and chorus indications (and the spelling of the verbal text) are modernized. All voice parts and underlay are entirely editorial.

Source: Tenbury MS 791, fols 259v-262r. Title: 'Unto thee O Lord'. Attributions variously spelt 'mr Ward' and 'J. Ward'. The verbal text (only) is printed in James Clifford's anthology of anthem texts (below).

Bibliography

James Clifford: *The Divine Services and Anthems*, 2nd edn (London 1664), pp. 202-3 (verbal text only). (Anthem CXLIV: 'Unto thee, O Lord, will I, &c. / Psal. 25, v. I, 2, 3, 4 5, 6. Mr. Warde'.)

Ralph T. Daniel and Peter le Huray: *The Sources of English Church Music 1549-1660* (London 1972), p. 152.

Peter le Huray: *Music and the Reformation in England 1549-1660* (London 1967; 2nd edn, Cambridge 1978), pp. 329-30.

Ian Payne: 'The Sacred Vocal Works of John Ward: a Complete Critical Edition and Commentary', 2 vols (unpublished M.A. thesis, University of Exeter, 1981), I, pp. 36-8; and II, pp. 491-516 (music text) and 565 (commentary).

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