

Psalm III (Cum invocarem)

Text: after James Merrick (1765), Melody: Caspar Ulenberg (1582)

Four part setting: Christoph Dalitz (2016)

De - fen - der of my right - - ful

Cantus firmus De - fen - der of my right - ful cause /

8 While an - guish from my bo - som draws / De - fen - der of my right - ful

De - fen - der of my right - ful

cause / O, hear my cease - less pray - - er.

O, hear my cease - less pray - er. That aid, which oft my griefs _____

8 cause / O, hear my cease - less pray - er. That aid, which

cause / O, hear my cease - less pray - er.

That aid, which oft my griefs hath heal'd / That aid a - gain, in - trea - ted,

_____ hath heal'd / That aid a - gain, in - trea - - - ted, yield /

8 oft my griefs hath heal'd / That aid a - gain, in - trea - ted

That aid a - gain, in - trea - ted

yield / Take of thy ser - vant care. _____

Take of thy ser - - vant care. ___ Take of thy ser - vant care. ___

8 yield / Take of thy ser - vant care. _____

yield / Take of thy ser - vant care, thy ser - vant care. ___

2. How long, ye sons of pride, how long / Shall falsehood arm your impious tongue /
My honour to defame? How long shall secret love of ill /
To wretched malice urge your will / And rage your breast inflame?
3. To God my heart shall vent its woe / Who promised blessings to bestow /
On each who learn'd his fear. Him wouldst thou please with rev'rent awe /
Observe the dictates of his law / Who bows his willing ear.
4. In secret on thy couch reclin'd / Search to its depth thy restless mind /
Till hush'd the tumult lie. With purest gifts approach his shrine /
And safe to him thy care resign / And wrath within thee die.
5. I hear a hopeless train demand / "Where's now the wish'd deliv'rer's hand?" /
Do thou, my God, reply! And let thy presence o'er our head /
Its all-enliv'ning influence shed / Effusing from on high.
6. What joy my conscious heart o'erflows! Not such th'exulting lab'rer knows /
When to his longing eyes / The vintage of the cultur'd soil /
With full requital crown his toil / When wanton harvests rise.
7. My weary eyes in sleep I close / My limbs, secure, to rest compose.
Thy gifts shalt bid me share. For thou, great God, shalt screen my head /
And plant a guard around my bed: To keep me in thy care.

To adapt the rhyming scheme and meter of James Merrick's psalm paraphrase to the rhyming scheme and meter of Ulenberg's text, I had to interchange verses and omitted some syllables. The original text by James Merrick can be found in "The Psalms. Translated and paraphrased into English verse." Reading, 1765.

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