

O gracious God

Edited by Jason Smart

George Marson (c.1573–1632)

Mean

Countertenor 1

Countertenor 2 [Missing]

Tenor

Bass

The first system of the musical score consists of five staves. From top to bottom: Mean (bass clef), Countertenor 1 (bass clef), Countertenor 2 (bass clef, marked [Missing]), Tenor (bass clef), and Bass (bass clef). The vocal parts are in 4/4 time with a key signature of three flats. The Tenor part begins with the lyrics "O gra - cious God of heaven and earth, God_".

4

The second system of the musical score consists of five staves. From top to bottom: Tenor (bass clef), Bass (bass clef), and three empty staves. The Tenor part continues with the lyrics "O gra - cious God of heaven and", "gra - cious God of heaven and earth, gra - cious God of heaven and_", and "of heaven and_ earth, and earth, O gra - cious God of heaven and".

8

earth, O gra - cious God of heaven and earth, O gra - cious
 earth, gra - cious God of heaven and earth, God
 O gra - cious God of heaven and earth, heaven and
 earth, O gra - cious God of heaven and earth, and
 O gra -

12

God of heaven and earth, God of heaven and earth,
 of heaven and earth, God of heaven and earth,
 earth, God of heaven and earth, of heaven and earth,
 earth, O gra -
 cious God of heaven and earth, of heaven and earth, and earth,

16

O gra - cious God of
 God of heaven and earth, and earth,
 O gra - cious God of heaven and earth, God of heav'n and
 cious God of heaven and earth, and earth, of heav'n
 God of heaven and earth,

20

heaven and earth, God of heaven and earth,
 God of heaven and earth,
 earth, God of heaven and earth,
 and earth, and earth, hear us when
 God of heaven and earth, hear us when we

23

hear us when we do pray un - to
 hear us when we do pray to thee, pray to thee,
 hear us when we pray un - to thee,
 we do pray to thee, hear us when we pray, hear us when we
 do pray, when we do pray to thee, hear us when we

27

thee, hear us when we do pray un - to
 hear us when we do pray to thee, and
 hear us when we do pray un - to thee,
 do pray, hear us when we do pray to thee, when we
 do pray, and grant us

31

thee, and grant us grace,
 grant us thy grace, hear us when we do pray and grant
 and grant us thy heaven - ly grace,
 pray to thee, and grant us thy
 grace, hear us when we do pray,

34

and grant us thy grace, and grant us thy heaven - ly
 us thy grace, thy heaven - ly grace, and grant
 and grant us thy heaven - ly grace,
 heaven - ly grace, and grant us thy
 and grant us thy heaven - ly grace,

37

grace, and grant us thy
 us thy grace, thy heaven - ly grace, and grant us thy
 and grant us thy heaven - ly grace, and grant us thy
 heaven - ly grace, and grant us thy
 thy heaven - ly grace, and grant us thy

40

heaven - ly grace.

heaven - ly grace. De - fend us, Lord, from

heaven - ly grace. De -

heaven - ly grace. De - fend us, Lord, from our e -

heaven - ly grace. De - fend us, Lord, from our e - ne -

43

De - fend us, Lord, from our e - ne-mies, our e - ne - mies,

our e - ne - mies, de - fend us, Lord, from our e - ne - mies,

- fend us, Lord, from our e - ne - - - mies, de -

- ne - mies, de - fend us, Lord, from our e - ne-mies,

mies, our e - ne-mies, de - fend us,

47

de - fend us, Lord, from our e - ne - mies, de -

de - fend us, Lord, de - fend us, Lord,

- fend us, Lord from our e - ne-mies, de - fend us, Lord, from our e - ne -

de - fend us, Lord, from our e - ne - mies, de - fend us, Lord.

Lord, from our e - ne-mies, de - fend us, Lord, from our

51

- fend us, Lord, from our e - ne - mies.

Lord, from our e - ne - mies. Pre - - - serve

- mies, Lord, from our e - ne - mies.

Pre - - - serve

e - ne-mies, Lord from our e - ne - mies.

55

Pre - - - serve

us, suf - fer not them, not them

Pre - serve us,

us, suf - fer not them to pre - vail, suf - fer not

Pre - - - serve us, suf - fer not

59

us, suf - fer not them to pre - vail, not them to

to pre - vail, pre - - - serve

suf - fer not, suf - fer not them to pre - vail,

them to pre - vail, to pre - - - vail, suf -

them to pre - - - vail,

63

pre - vail, suf - fer not
 us, suf - fer not them to pre - vail, suf - fer not
 pre - - - serve us, suf - fer not them to pre -
 - fer not them to pre - - - vail, to
 suf - fer not them to

67

them to pre - vail. We ac - know-ledge that our sins are ma - ny.
 them to pre - vail.
 - - vail, to pre - vail. We ac - know-ledge that our sins are ma - ny.
 - pre - - - vail. We ac - know-ledge that our sins are ma - ny,
 pre - - - - vail.

71

Grant
 We ac-know-ledge that our sins are ma - ny. Grant mer -
 Grant mer -
 we ac-know-ledge that our sins are ma - ny, Grant mer - - -
 We ac-know-ledge that our sins are ma - ny. Grant

75

mer - cy, O Lord, grant mer - cy, O
 - cy, grant mer - cy, O Lord,
 - - cy, O Lord, grant mer - cy, O
 - cy, O Lord, grant mer - cy, O Lord, O Lord,
 mer - cy, O Lord, O O Lord,

79

Lord, grant mer - cy, O
 grant mer - cy, O Lord, grant mer -
 Lord, O Lord, grant mer - cy, O Lord,
 grant mer - cy, O Lord, grant mer -
 grant mer - cy, O Lord, O Lord, grant

82

Lord, grant mer - cy, O Lord.
 - cy, grant mer - cy, O Lord.
 grant mer - cy, O Lord, O Lord.
 - cy, O Lord, grant mer - cy, O Lord.
 mer - cy, O Lord, O Lord.

Editorial Conventions

The nomenclature of the voice-parts follows the Tudor convention.

The original clef, staff signature, mensuration symbol and first note of each part are shown on the prefatory staves.

Editorial accidentals are placed above the notes concerned and remain operative throughout the bar.

Spelling of the text has been modernised.

Text repetition signs in the underlay have been expanded editorially in italics.

Source

London, Royal College of Music MSS 1045–51 (c.1625; seven partbooks from an original set of ten, now lacking the books for Secundus Contratenor Decani, Secundus Contratenor Cantoris and Bassus Decani).

1045	(Medius Decani)	f.18	in index: O gracious god. Marson 5. parts header: Medius
1046	(Primus Contratenor Decani)	f.23	in index: O gracious god Marson header: Primus: Cont:
1047	(Tenor Decani)	f.22	in index: O gracious god, Marson header: Tenor
1048	(Medius Cantoris)	f.22 ^v	in index: O gracious god. Marson. 5. parts
1049	(Primus Contratenor Cantoris)	f.20 ^v	in index: O gracious god. Marson. 5. parts
1050	(Tenor Cantoris)	f.21 ^v	in index: O gracious god. Marson. 5. parts
1051	(Bassus Cantoris)	f.20 ^v	in index: O gracious god. Marson. 5. parts

Notes on the Readings of the Source

The voice-parts for the Mean, first Countertenor and Tenor occur in both the respective decani and cantoris partbooks. The use of underlay repetition signs is not entirely consistent between the two copies of each voice-part. The edition adopts the most complete version without comment; the discrepancies are not recorded below. All melismas are provided with by slurs, although these rarely indicate exactly the notes to which they apply. The discrepancies noted below are by no means comprehensive.

In the notes below, each reference to a bar or group of bars is separated by an oblique stroke. Within these references multiple readings in the same voice are separated by commas and readings in different voices by semicolons. The order within each entry is: 1) bar number; 2) voice (e.g. Ct1d = Countertenor 1 decani); 3) reading of the source. For extended references subsequent bar numbers are in brackets. Pitches are in capital letters, preceded by a number where necessary, e.g. ²E = second note E in the bar. The sign + denotes a tie and ∷ an underlay repetition sign.

Accidentals

18 Ct1d Ct1c ♯ for ²E / 35 Bc ♭ for ¹D / 37 Td Tc ♯ for ²D / 38 Ct1d Ct1c ♯ for ²E / 43 Td no ♯ for E / 63 Td Tc ♯ for ²E /

Underlay

4–5 Td Tc slur for ED / 8 Ct1d Ct1c slur for AFED; Td Tc slur for AB / 11 Td Tc slur for ²CBA / 12–13 Md Mc slur for A+AGF; Ct1d Ct1c slur for ³C+CB / 15 Bc slur for AB / 16 Ct1c *gra-* ∷ below G¹A / 17–18 Ct1d slur for F+FED; Ct1c slur does not include F+F / 18 Td Tc slur for B¹G / 20 Td Tc slur for FF / 20–21 Td Tc slur for C+CBA / 21 Ct1d Ct1c slur for FE / 21–22 Md Mc slur for GAF / 26–27 Md Mc slur for ²AGF; Tc slur for E+EB, (27) *do* below D; Td slur for BD / 28 Ct1d Ct1c slur for BCDC / 30–31 Md Mc slur for F+FGE / 37 Tc slur for E²D (only) / 37–38 Td slur for E²D¹C (sic) / 42 Td slur for FGAG; Tc slur of ambiguous extent / 43 Ct1d Ct1c slur for BA / 45 Ct1d Ct1c slur for G²F / 49 Ct1d Ct1c slur for FE / 56–57 Ct1d Ct1c slur for F+FE / 58–59 Bc *them not* for *not them* / 60 Tc slur for AG; Bc slur for ABD (only); (60–61) Td no underlay or slurs, (62) *not them* below BF, (63) *to pre-* below ¹ED, slur for D²E, (63–64) *-vail* below C+C, (64) *to* ∷ below ¹FG, slur for GA²F (only) / 61 Tc slur for GF / 62 Md Mc slur for DC²B / 64 Td Tc slur for GA²F (only) / 64–65 Bc slur for F+FE / 67 Ct1d Ct1c slur for DCB; Td slur for A¹GF (only); Tc slur for ¹GF (only) / 72 Td Tc slur for ²GF / 75 Td Tc slur for B²C / 77 Td ∷ for *mercy O Lord O Lord* (so repetition of *O Lord* not explicit) / 79–80 Tc slur for BCDCBC / 80 Ct1d Ct1c slur for GF; Td slur for ¹B²C²D (only) / 81 Ct1d Ct1c slur for BF / 82 Td Tc slur for GF / 83–84 Bc slur for B²C / 84 Td Tc slur for GF (only) /

Other Readings

26 Ct1d Ct1c B is A /