Henry Loosemore

Give the King thy judgements

Typeset and reconstructed 2023 by Hugo Janacek from manuscripts held at Durham Cathedral.

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Chorus





Text:

Give the King thy judgements, O God: and thy righteousness unto the King's Son. In his time shall the righteous flourish: Yea, and abundance of peace, so long as the Moon endureth. His Dominion shall be also from the one Sea to the other: and from the flood unto the world's end. His name shall endure for ever; his name shall remain under the Sun among the Posterities: which shall be blessed through him; and all the heathen shall praise him. And blessed be the name of his Majesty for ever: and all the earth shall be filled with his Majesty.

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.

Spelling and grammar has been modernised, but the original text setting has not been changed.

This work survives in several sets of manuscripts. Unfortunately, all these sets are incomplete at the time of writing, meaning that several parts for this work are not known to survive. The surviving parts consist of Decani Countertenor 1, Decani Countertenor 2, Tenor Dec, Tenor Can, Bass Dec, and the organ part. Thankfully, the organ part is unusually detailed for the period, and therefore provides a significant amount of information about the missing parts.

The surviving parts provide 4 vocal lines in the chorus sections. Contemporary organ parts usually explicitly play the musical material for all the Treble or Meane parts in choruses and verses. The combination of the organ part and the surviving vocal parts implies that the choruses are sung only by one treble throughout the majority of the work, with the exception of bars 52 to 54, using the numbering scheme in this edition. The lower material in these passages could conceivably be written for one of the missing Countertenor parts. However, the editor believes this is unlikely; the editor has come across no examples where Loosemore writes for more than two Countertenor parts at a time. As such, the editor believes this passage is scored for two Treble parts. It is worth noting that such a device appears in a number of verse anthems scored in the 16th and 17th centuries.

The lost vocal parts have more of an impact in the verse sections, where some verse material is missing. Thankfully, the organ part allows reconstruction of this material with a fair degree of accuracy; much of the verse material appears to be immitative, and is contained in its entirety within the organ part. The editor has therefore reconstructed this material, using the organ part as a guide. The editor has made reference to immitation with the surviving parts, and to surviving verse anthems by Loosemore and his contemporaries in those few instances where verse material is not immitative.

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

The editor wishes to thank Durham Cathedral, for allowing material in their possession to be used in the creation of this edition. Music from Durham's manuscripts has been reproduced by kind permission of the Chapter of Durham Cathedral.

Sources:

Partbooks, Durham Cathedral Library, Durham, GB-DRc MSS C2, C3, C11, C14, C16, C19. Organ Book, Durham Cathedral Library, Durham, GB-DRc MS A2.