

The heavens and the firmament

The Whole Booke of Psalms (1621), Psalme 19

Thomas RAVENSCROFT(1590-1633)

CANTVS
MEDIVS
TENOR
or Playnsong
BASSVS

Wels or
Glisenbury Tune

The hea - vens and the fir - ma - ment do wond - rous - ly de - clare
The hea - vens and the fir - ma - ment do wond - rous - ly de - clare
The hea - vens and the fir - ma - ment do wond - rous - ly de - clare
The hea - vens and the fir - ma - ment do wond - rous - ly de - clare

3
S.
A.
T.
B.

The glo - ry of God om - ni - po - tent, his works and what they are.
The glo - ry of God om - ni - po - tent, his works and what they are.
The glo - ry of God om - ni - po - tent, his works and what they are.
The glo - ry of God om - ni - po - tent, his works and what they are.

The glo - ry of God om - ni - po - tent, his works and what they are.

2. The wondrous works of God appear
by every days success:
The nights which likewise their race run
the selfsame things express.

3. There is no language, tongue or speech
where their sound is not heard:
In all the earth and coasts thereof,
thier knowledhe is conferred.

4. In them the Lord made for the Sun
a place of great renown:
Who like a bridegroom ready trimmed,
doth from his chamber come.

5. And as a valiant champion,
who for to get a price:
With joy doth haste to take in hand,
some noble enterprise.

6. And all the Sky from end to end,
he compasseth about:
Nothing can hide it from his heat
but he will find it out.

7. How perfect is the Law of God
how is his covenant sure?
Converting souls and making wise
the simple and obscure,

8. Just are the Lords Commandements,
and glad both heart and mind:
His precepts pure, and giveth light,
to eyes that be full blind.

9. The fear of God is excellent,
and doth endure forever:
The judgements of the Lord are true,
and righteous altogether.

10. And more to be embrac'd always,
then fined gold I say:
The honey and the honeycomb,
are not as sweet as they.

11. By them the servant is forwarned
to have God in regard:
And in performance of the same,
there shall be great reward.

12. But Lord what earthly man doth know
the errors of his life?
Then cleans my soul from secret sins,
which are in me most rife.

13. And keep me that presumptuous sins
prevail not over me:
And so shall I be innocent,
and great offences fly (flee).

14. Accept my mouth and eke my heart,
my words and thoughts each one:
For my Redeemer and my strength
O Lord thou art alone.

Critical notes:

Bassus bar 4: note 2 = original F changed tot G; note 4 = original G changed to F;
this setting is similar to the ones of Psalms 63 & 140;
Text somewhat modernised.