

# O God that guides the cheerful Sun

*Versus*

A Carol for New-Year's Day

William Byrd (c.1540-1623)

Cantus Primus  
[Treble Viol/Soprano]

Cantus Secundus  
[Alto]

Contratenor  
[Treble viol/Alto]

Sextus  
[Tenor viol/Tenor]

Tenor  
[Tenor viol/Tenor]

Bassus  
[Bass viol/Bass]

O God,  
Th'old year,

Detailed description: This block contains the first system of a six-part vocal and instrumental setting. It features six staves: Cantus Primus (Soprano), Cantus Secundus (Alto), Contratenor (Alto), Sextus (Tenor), Tenor (Tenor), and Bassus (Bass). The music is in 4/2 time with a common time signature. The lyrics 'O God, Th'old year,' are placed between the Cantus Secundus and Contratenor staves.

10

O God, that guides the cheer - ful Sun, By mo - tions strange  
th'old year by course is past and gone, old A - dam Lord

Detailed description: This block contains the second system of the musical score, starting at measure 10. It features six staves with vocal lines and a bass line. The lyrics 'O God, that guides the cheer - ful Sun, By mo - tions strange th'old year by course is past and gone, old A - dam Lord' are written across the staves. A box containing the number '10' is positioned above the first staff.

the year to frame, Which now re - turned whence it be -  
 from us ex - pel: New crea - tures make us ev - ery\_

-gun, From heaven ex - tols\_ thy\_ glo - ri - ous\_ name.  
 one, new life be - comes\_ the\_ New - year\_ well.

This new-year's sea - son san - cti - fy, with dou - ble bles - sings,  
 As new - born babes from ma - lice keep, new wed - ding gar - ments,

with dou - ble bles - sings of thy store,  
 new wed - ding gar - ments O Christ we crave:

That gra - ces new may mul - ti - ply, and for - mer fol - lies,  
 That we thy face in heaven may see with An - gels\_\_ bright,

30  
 and for - mer fol - lies reign no more.  
 with An - gels\_\_ bright our souls to save.

Chorus

2.

So shall our hearts with heaven, *with heaven,* with  
more. So shall our hearts with heaven, with heaven  
save. So shall our hearts with heaven, with heaven a - gree,  
So shall our hearts with heaven a - gree, *with heaven a -*  
So shall our hearts with heaven a - gree,  
So shall our hearts with heaven, *with heaven* with heaven

heaven a - - - - gree, and both give  
a - gree, with heaven a - gree,  
*with heaven* a - gree, and both give  
- gree, a - - gree, with heaven a - gree, and both give laud, *and both give*  
with heaven a - gree, and both give laud  
a - gree, with heaven a - gree,

laud, *and both give laud,* and both give laud and praise to thee.  
 and both give laud and praise to thee, and praise to \_\_\_\_\_ thee.  
 laud and praise, and both give laud and praise \_\_\_\_\_ to thee, and praise to thee.  
 laud, *and both give laud,* and both give laud and praise to \_\_\_\_\_ thee.  
 and praise to thee, and both give laud and praise to thee, to thee.  
 and both give laud, and both give laud and praise to thee.

A - - - - men.  
 A - - - - - - - - men.  
 A - - - - - - - - men.  
 A - - - - -  
 A - - - - -  
 A - - - - -

The image displays a musical score for a six-part setting of 'Amen' by William Byrd. The score is written for six voices: Soprano, Alto, Tenor 1, Tenor 2, Bass 1, and Bass 2. Each part is on a separate staff. The lyrics are 'A - - - - - men.' for the first part and 'men. A - - - - - men.' for the second part. The music is in a common time signature and features a variety of note values and rests. The score is presented in a clean, black-and-white format with a large bracket on the left side.

Source: William Byrd, *Psalmes, Songs, and Sonnets...* (London, 1611), no.28

Prefatory bars: ranges shown are for vocal parts only. Viol parts in C clefs are available from the editor on request.

Although not indicated in the source, it would seem reasonable to reserve the *Amen* to follow the second verse. Accordingly the second verse, printed after the music in the original edition, has here been underlaid by the editor, with the recommendation that a performance should consist of verse 1 - chorus - verse 2 - chorus - amen.

Part of my complete edition of the published vocal works of William Byrd made available through the Choral Public Domain Library (<http://www.cpd.org>). For general editorial notes, please visit my user page at <http://www.cpd.org/wiki/index.php/User:DaveF>. All scores are made freely available according to the CPDL Licence for downloading, printing, performing and recording. No further conditions are or can be attached, although it's always good to hear of any performances. Please do not, without consulting me, make copies of my scores available through other websites – there's no need, first of all, as CPDL is always here, and secondly by doing so you put these editions beyond my control and so will miss out on any updates and revisions.