

Friendship

Bidwell, 1786

87. 87. 88. 87.

Transcribed from *Supplement to the Kentucky Harmony*, 1825.

G Major

George Frideric Handel, 1736
Arranged by Ananias Davisson, 1820

5

Tr. 1. { Friendship to every willing mind O - pens a heaven - ly treasure; } See what employments men pursue, Then you will own my words are true:
There may the sons of sorrow find The sources of real pleasure.

C. 2. { Poor are the joys that fools esteem, Fa - ding and tran - si - to - ry; } Luxury leaves a sting behind Wounding the bo - dy and the mind,
Mirth is as fleeting as a dream. Or a de - lu - sive sto - ry:

T. 3. { Learning, that boasting glittering thing. Scarcely is worth pos - ses - sing; } Fame like a shadow flies a - way, Ti - tles and dig - ni - ty de - cay,
Riches, for - ev - er on the wing, Scarce can be called a bles - sing:

B. 4. { Beauty with all its gaudy show, Is but a painted bubble: } Sen - su - al pleasure swells desire. Just as the fu - el feeds the fire,
Short is the triumph wit bestow, Full of de - ceit and trouble:

10

Tr. 1. Friendship alone unfolds to view The sources of real plea - sure.

C. 2. On - ly in friendship can we find Plea - sure and so - lid glo - ry.

T. 3. Nothing but friendship can display Joys that are freed from trou - ble.

B. 4. A friendship can real bliss inspire Bliss that is worth pos - ses - sing.

5. Happy the man who hath a friend
Formed by the God of nature,
Well may he feel and recommend
Friendship for his Creator.
Then may our hearts in friendship join
To let our social powers combine,
Ruled by a passion most divine,
Friendship to our Creator.

The melody (*Tenor*) was written by George Frideric Handel as an aria from his opera *La caccia in Etolia* in 1715, published in 1736. There is a two part version (Tenor-Bass) in *American Musical Miscellany* of 1798 and a three-part arrangement in 1813. This was rearranged for four parts by Ananias Davisson in his *Supplement to the Kentucky Harmony* in 1820. Words as in *American Musical Miscellany*, 1798.