Transcribed from Manuscript S-290, ca. 1790.

G minor

William Billings, 1779



Appears in *Massachusetts Historical Society Manuscript S-290*, the Shepard Fish Manuscript. This tune is a considerably rewritten version of Saybrook, from Billings' *Music in Miniature*, 1779 – meter has been changed from 88.88. (L.M.) to 86. 86. (C. M.), and "all parts of the printed tune have been significantly altered in pitch and rhythm so as to make in effect a different piece of it" (Kroeger 1952). In the manuscript, the tune has an indication "Lamentatione"; someone has written "Bridgwater" above it in a different hand from the lyrics.

Billings' 1779 publication of Saybrook had no words, although in 1979 words from Isaac Watts' Psalm 139 were chosen for it. The one stanza appearing in the manuscript first appeared in 1787; it was used later by Billings in his St. Thomas, 1794.

Edited by B. C. Johnston, 2023

- 1. Measure 8, Counter. note changed from F to F#.
- 2. Measure 13, Counter: note changed from F to F#.