

# O God that guides the cheerful Sun

Versus

A Carol for New-Year's Day

William Byrd (c.1540-1623)

Musical score for the first system, featuring six vocal parts: Cantus Primus, Cantus Secundus, Contratenor, Sextus, Tenor, and Bassus. The score is in 4/2 time and common time (C). The lyrics for the first system are: "O God, Th'old year,".

Musical score for the second system, featuring six vocal parts. The score is in 4/2 time and common time (C). The lyrics for the second system are: "O God, that guides the cheerful Sun, By motions strange  
th'old year by course is past and gone, old A-dam Lord". A box containing the number "10" is located above the first staff of this system.

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,



The image displays a musical score for the piece 'Amen' by William Byrd. It consists of six staves, each representing a different vocal part. The lyrics 'A - - - - - men.' are written below the notes on each staff. The music is written in a style characteristic of the English Renaissance, with a focus on the vocal line. The score includes various musical notations such as clefs, notes, rests, and bar lines. The lyrics are: 'A - - - - - men.' for the first five staves, and '-men. A - - - - - men.' for the sixth staff.

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.