

# The Complaint of a Sinner (3 settings)

Edited by Jason Smart

William Parsons (fl.1551-63)

## I

Countertenor 1

Countertenor 2

Tenor

Bass

Where right-eous - ness doth say, Lord, for my

Where right-eous - ness doth say, Lord, for my

Where right-eous - ness doth say, Lord, for my

Where right-eous - ness doth say, Lord, for my

4

sin - ful part In wrath thou should'st me pay Ven - geance for

sin - ful part In wrath thou should'st me pay Ven - geance for

sin - ful part In wrath thou should'st me pay Ven - geance for

sin - ful part In wrath thou should'st me pay Ven - geance for

8

my des - sert, I can it not de - ny, But needs I

my des - sert, I can it not de - ny, But needs I

my des - sert, I can it not de - ny, But needs I

my des - sert, I can it not de - ny, But needs I

12

must con - fess                      How that con - tin - u - al - ly                      Thy laws I

must con - fess                      How that con - tin - u - al - ly                      Thy laws I

must con - fess                      How that con - tin - u - al - ly                      Thy laws I

must con - fess                      How that con - tin - u - al - ly                      Thy laws I

16

do trans - gress,                      thy laws I do trans - - - gress.

do trans - gress,                      thy laws I do trans - - - gress.

do trans - gress,                      *thy laws I do trans - - - gress.*

do trans - gress,                      thy laws I do trans - - - gress.

## II

Mean

Countertenor

Tenor

Bass

Where right - eous - ness doth say, Lord, for my

Where right - eous - ness doth say, Lord, for my

Where right - eous - ness doth say, Lord, for my

Where right - eous - ness doth say, Lord, for my

4

sin - ful part In wrath thou should'st me pay Ven - geance for

sin - ful part In wrath thou should'st me pay Ven - geance for

sin - ful part In wrath thou should'st me pay Ven - geance for

sin - ful part In wrath thou should'st me pay Ven - geance for

8

my des - sert, I can it not de - ny, But needs I

my des - sert, I can it not de - ny, But needs I

my des - sert, I can it not de - ny, But needs I

my des - sert, I can it not de - ny, But needs I

12

must con - fess                      How that con - tin - u - al - ly                      Thy laws I

must con - fess                      How that con - tin - u - al - ly                      Thy laws I

must con - fess                      How that con - tin - u - al - ly                      Thy laws I

must con - fess                      How that con - tin - u - al - ly                      Thy laws I

16

do trans - gress,                      thy laws I do trans - - - gress.

do trans - gress,                      thy laws I do trans - - - gress.

do trans - gress,                      thy laws I do trans - - - gress.

do trans - gress,                      thy laws I do trans - - - gress.

## III

Mean 1

Mean 2

Countertenor

Bass

Where right - eous - ness doth say, Lord,

Where right - eous - ness doth say, \_\_\_\_\_

Where right - eous - ness doth say,

3

for my sin - ful part In wrath thou should'st me

Where right - eous - ness doth say, Lord, for my sin - ful part

— Lord, for my sin - ful part In wrath thou should'st me pay Ven - geance for

Lord, for my sin - ful part In wrath thou should'st me pay Ven -

7

pay Ven - geance for my des - sert, I can it not de - ny,

In wrath thou should'st me pay Ven - geance for my des - sert,

my des - sert, *ven - geance for my des - sert,* I can it

- geance for my des - sert, for my des - sert, I can it not de - ny, But

11

But needs I must con - fess How that con - tin - u - al -  
 I can it not de - ny, But needs I must con - fess  
 not de - ny, But needs I must con - fess How that con - tin - u - al - ly,  
 needs I must con - fess, but needs I must con - fess How that con - tin - u - al -

15

- ly Thy laws I do trans - gress, thy laws I  
 How that con - tin - u - al - ly Thy laws I  
 how that con - tin - u - al - ly Thy laws I do trans-gress,  
 - ly, how that con - tin - u - al - ly Thy laws I do trans -

18

do trans - gress, thy laws I do trans - gress.  
 do trans - gress, thy laws I do trans - - - gress.  
 thy laws I do trans - gress, thy laws I do trans - gress.  
 - gress, thy laws I do trans - gress, thy laws I do trans - gress.

## Editorial Conventions

The original clef, staff signature and first note of each part are shown on the prefatory staves at the start of each setting. No mensuration signs are given.

Editorial accidentals are placed above the notes concerned. Accidentals not given explicitly in the source but necessary because of modernisation of the staff signature are placed before the notes and have a superscript dot. No editorial subsemitones have been applied to the tune (which is in the Tenor in setting I, in the Mean in II and canonically in M1 and M2 in III) since it is impossible to do so consistently throughout all three settings. Compare, for example, setting I, Tenor, bar 4 with II, Mean, bar 4. Also, in III compare M1, bar 8 with M2, bar 10. However it is not certain that Tudor musicians expected consistency in this matter, so performers who wish to sharpen cadential leading notes should feel free to do so.

Repeat signs in the underlay have been expanded using italic text.

## Source

*Medius [Contra Tenor / Tenor / Bassus] of the whole psalmes in foure partes* (London: John Day, 1563). Copy consulted: London, British Library, K.1.e.2.

### I

Medius	(Ct1)	p.134	page heading:	The complaint of a sinner	W.P
Contra Tenor	(Ct2)	p.136	page heading:	The complaint of a sinner	W.P
Tenor	(T)	p.138	page heading:	The complaint of a sinner.	W.P
Bassus	(B)		in contents table:	The complaint of a sinner w.p.	
		p.140	page heading:	The complaint of a sinner.	W.P

### II

Medius	(M)	p.135	page heading:	Another of	W.P
Contra Tenor	(Ct)	p.137	page heading:	Another of	W.P
Tenor	(T)	p.139	page heading:	Another of	W.P
Bassus	(B)	p.141	page heading:	Another of	W.P

### III

Medius	(M1)	p.136	page heading:	Another of	W.P
Contra Tenor	(M2)	p.138	page heading:	Another of	W.P
Tenor	(T)	p.140	page heading:	Another of	W.P
Bassus	(B)	p.142	page heading:	Another of	W.p

In the early pages of each partbook the various composers' names are given in full, but subsequently only their initials tend to be given. This enables 'W.P' to be identified as William Parsons.

## Notes on the Readings of the Source

### 2nd setting

5 Ct new line in source without staff signature begins with first C / 9 Ct b for first B /

### 3rd setting

3 M2 E is G / 11 M1 minim C precedes the minim rest /