## London Gallery Quire 242

Isaac Watts (1674-1748)

Come, let us join our cheerful songs

Auspicious, anon. Edited by Francis Roads





The setting *Auspicious* was found in an anonymous MS book in the possession of Tim Henderson of London Gallery Quire. He found it on sale in the Cambridge Oxfam shop. It contains 88 tunes, of which all except one are in metres used by the New Version. Over half of them are in the Hymn Tune Index, which means that they were composed before 1820. These two facts, combined with the general idiom of the tunes, suggest a date of around 1840-50, and use in an Anglican church. However, there is a reference to Queen Victoria's Golden Jubilee (1887) in the same hand as many of the tunes, so it appears that this book was in use long after *Hymns Ancient and Modern* (1861) has replaced the gallery style in many churches.

Although the hand is fairly neat, the book contains many copying or other errors. Indeed, it is hard to imagine how it was used as it stands. I have edited *Auspicious* very heavily, and have altered no fewer than 64 notes. There is no indication of any text. Original a tone higher.