

London Gallery Quire 647

Paraphrased by John Milton (1608–74)

Let us with a gladsom mind
Psalm 136, vv. 1, 2, 7–9, 25 and 26

Monkland, by John Antes (1740–1811)
with a symphony by Francis Roads
Edited by Nicholas Markwell

[♩ = 88]

Soprano [Air]

1. Let us with a glad - som mind Praise the Lord, for he is kind,
 2. Let us blaze his Name a - broad, For of gods he is the God ;
 3. Who by his all - com - mand - ing might, Fill'd the new - made world with light.
 4. And caus'd the Gol - den - tress - ed Sun, All day long his course to run.
 5. The horn - ed Moon to shine by night, 'Mongst her span - gled sis - ters bright.
 6. All liv - ing crea - tures he doth feed, With full hand sup - plies their need.
 7. Let us with a glad - som mind Praise the Lord, for he is kind,

Alto

Tenor

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 2. Let us blaze his Name a - broad, For of gods he is the God ;
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Bass

5

Symphony

S
For his mer - cies ay - en - dure, E - ver - faith - full, e - versure.

A

T
For his mer - cies ay - en - dure, E - ver - faith - full, e - versure.

B

Editorial emendation : bar 8, alto : final note G. The small note in the bass, bar 4, is editorial, and the fermata at the end of each phrase have been replaced with double barlines. The author's original spelling and capitalisation of nouns has been retained.

Let us with a gladsom mind is a paraphrase of Psalm 136 by John Milton, written in 1624, when he was just fifteen years of age. He published it in his *Poems*, 1645, slightly revising it in 1673. Of his 24 stanzas (paraphrasing all but the last verse of Psalm 136), six have been selected here, with Milton's first stanza being repeated as the last verse of the psalm. Milton's paraphrase was not entirely consistent metrically, with many stanzas being of eight syllables, rather than the seven required by the present tune. Hymnal editors have made various adaptations since 1762 to regularise the couplets, and this edition is no exception. However, John Antes' tune *Monkland* (originally written for William Hammond's hymn *What good news the Angels bring* !) in its original form allows for less drastic alterations, as the crotchets in the first line of the melody easily permit the first lines (but not the second) of Milton's original text to be retained.

The music has been edited from a scan of John Antes's original manuscript, held in the Fulneck Moravian Chapel archive, Leeds, which is thought to date from between 1789—the date of the original publication of Hammond's hymn—and 1808, when Antes moved to Bristol. The tune is unnamed in the MS, and was published posthumously by John Lees in 1824, with a number of minor alterations. It was named *Monkland* when it was arranged by John Wilkes for the first edition of *Hymns Ancient and Modern*. Wilkes was organist at the small Herefordshire village of Monkland, where *HA&M's* compiler, Henry Williams Baker, was Vicar. In Wilkes' arrangement, the melody was shorn of its characteristically exuberant crotchet runs, according with the more austere taste of the second half of the nineteenth-century.