

Come, let us worship and bow down

For SSATB voices a cappella

Music by Claudio Monteverdi (1567-1643)

(*Ecco, piegando le ginocchia a terra riverente t'adoro*)

Words from Psalms 95 & 96

Edited by Wilbur Skeels

• = 80 *p*

Sop 1
Come, let us wor - ship and bow down and kneel be -

Sop 2
Come, let us wor - ship and bow down and kneel be -

Alto
Come, let us wor - ship and bow down and kneel be -

Tenor

Bass
Come, let us wor - ship and bow down and kneel be -

Keybd
(for rehearsal only)

Monteverdi was 38, *maestro di cappella* for the Duke of Mantua, and at the height of his powers when his Fifth Book of Madrigals for Five Voices was published in Venice in 1605. Number 7 of the 19 madrigals in the book was *Ecco, piegando le ginocchia a terra riverente t'adoro*, or, *See, bending my knees to the ground, I worship you reverently (and I beg you for forgiveness, but not for my life)*. The madrigal was one of several in a song cycle using verses from *Il Pastor Fido* (*The Faithful Shepherd*), a play by Battista Guarini. We have relied on the Malipiero edition (1926-1942) of Monteverdi's works.

This transcription replaces the secular text with a Biblical one, a practice often entertained by composers of the period who wrote both sacred and secular music in the same style and frequently re-used their own musical material in this way. The original is set one tone higher (in Gm). All dynamic markings are editorial. Malipiero suggested *Lento, ma non Troppo* for the tempo of the madrigal. A somewhat more upbeat tempo may be in order for the sacred text. -W.S.

4 *cresc.*

fore the Lord our Mak - er. He is ab - le, He is *cresc.*

fore the Lord our Mak - er. He is

fore the Lord our Mak - er. *cresc.*

8 Come, let us wor - ship and bow

4 fore the Lord our Mak - er.

7 *dim.* *p*

ab - le to par - don our trans - gress. *dim.* *p*

ab - le to par - don our trans - gress. *dim.* *p*

dim. *p*

down and kneel be - fore the Lord our Mak - er.

7

10

ions.

ions.

p *poco cresc.* *dim.*

p He is ab - le to par - don our trans - gress -

poco cresc. *dim.*

He is ab - le to par - don our trans - gress -

He is ab - le to par - don our trans - gress -

10 *p* *poco cresc.* *dim.*

14 *p* *poco cresc.* *dim.*

He is ab - le, He is ab - le to par - don

He is ab - le to par - don our *dim.*

p *poco cresc.* *dim.*

ions He is ab - le to par - don our *dim.*

p *poco cresc.* *dim.*

ions.

ions.

14

17 A *mf*

— our trans - gress ? ions. Come, *mf*

— trans - gress ions. Come, *mf*

— trans - gress ? *mf* ions. Come,

8 Come, O come, let us sing un - *mf*

Come,

17 A

21 *mf*

O come, let us sing un-to the Lord. Come, make a

O come, let us sing un - to the Lord. Come make a

O come, let us sing un - to the Lord.

to the Lord. *f* Come, O come let us sing un -

O come, let us sing un - to the Lord.

21

I N C O M P L E T E