

# O Lord unto my voyce give eare

The Whole Booke of Psalms (1621) - Psalme 64

Thomas RAVENSCROFT (1590-1633)

CANTVS

MEDIVS

TENOR  
or Playnsong

BASSVS

*Bristoll Tune*

O Lord un - to my voice give ear, with plaints when I do pray:

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O Lord un - to my voice give ear, with plaints when I do pray:

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3

S. And rid my life and soul from fear of foes that threat to slay.

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T. And rid my life and soul from fear of foes that threat to slay.

B. And rif my lief and soul from fear of foes that threat to slay.

2. Defend me from that sort of men,  
which in deserts do lurk:  
And from the frowning face of them  
that all ill feats do work.

3. Who whet their tongues as we have seen  
men whet and sharp their swords,  
They shoot abroad their arrows keen  
I mean most bitter words.

4. With privy (stights) shoot they their shaft  
the upright man to hit:  
The just unware to strike by craft,  
they care of fear no whit.

5. A wicked work they have decreed,  
in counsel thus they cry:  
To use deceit let us not dread,  
what, who can it espy?  
. What ways to hurt they talk and muse  
all times within their heart:  
They all consult what feats to us,  
each doth invent his part.

7. But yet all this shall not avail  
when they think least upon:  
God with his darts shall sure assail,  
and wound them every one.

8. Their crafts and their ill tongues withal  
shall work themselves such blame:  
That they which then behold their fall,  
shall wonder at the same.

9. Then all that see shall know right well  
that God this thing hath wrought:  
And praise his witty works and tell  
what he to pass hath brought.  
10. Yet shall the just in God rejoice,  
still trusting in his might:  
So shall they joy with mind and voice,  
whose heart is pure and right.

## Critical notes:

Cantus Bar4/note 5 is semi-brevis in original;  
editorial sharp added in Medius bar 4, note 1;  
this setting is similar to the one op Psalm 16;  
Text somewhat modernised.