

Psalm 4

Henry Lawes (1596–1662)
edited by Richard Shakeshaft

The musical score is arranged in three systems. The first system includes vocal parts for Soprano, Cantus, Alto, Tenor, Bass, and Bassus, and a keyboard accompaniment. The second and third systems continue the vocal and keyboard parts. The music is in the key of D major (two sharps) and 4/4 time. The vocal parts are written in treble clef, and the keyboard parts are in bass clef. The score concludes with a double bar line.

1 Thou guardian of my truth and me,
That from these straits hast set me free
O hear my prayer!
Be I thy care;
For mercy lives in thee.

2 You sons of men, how long will you
Eclipse my glory, and pursue
Loved vanities,
Delight in lies,
To man, to God untrue.

3 Know, God my innocence hast blessed,
And will with sovereignty invest:
His gentle care
Prepared to hear
My never vain request.

4 Sin not, but fear, surcease and try
Your heart, as on your beds you lie:
Pure gifts present
With pure intent,
And place your hopes on high.

5 But earthly minds false wealth admire,
And toil with uncontrolled desire.
With clear aspect
Thy beams reflect,
And heavenly thoughts inspire.

6 O let my joys, exempt from fears,
Their joys transcend, when autumn bears
His pleasant wines
On clustered vines,
And grain-replenished ears.

7 Now shall the peaceful hand of sleep
In heavenly dew my senses steep;
Whom thy large wings,
O king of kings,
In shades of safety keep.

George Sandys (1578–1644)