

Psalm 54

Henry Lawes (1596–1662)
edited by Richard Shakeshaft

The musical score is written in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It consists of four systems. The first system includes vocal parts for Soprano, Cantus, and Alto, and Tenor, Bass, and Bassus. The second and third systems are for keyboard accompaniment, with a grand staff (treble and bass clefs). The fourth system continues the vocal parts. The score uses various note values including minims, crotchets, and quavers, with some notes beamed together. There are also rests and fermatas indicated.

1 Lord, for thy promise sake defend,
And thy all-saving shield extend:
O hear my cries,
Which with wet eyes
And sighs to thee ascend!

2 For cruël men my life pursue;
And who thy statutes never knew.
Suppress my foes:
O side with those,
Who to my soul are true!

3 With vengeance recompense their hate;
And in an instant ruinate.
Then will I bring
My offering,
And thy great acts relate.

4 Thy name for ever praised be;
Who from those snares hast set me free:
For lo, these eyes
My enemies
Desired subversion see.

George Sandys (1578–1644)