## THE

First Fisty Psalms.

Tet to Music by

Benedetto Marcello.

PATRIZIO VENETO,

ENGLISH VERSION,

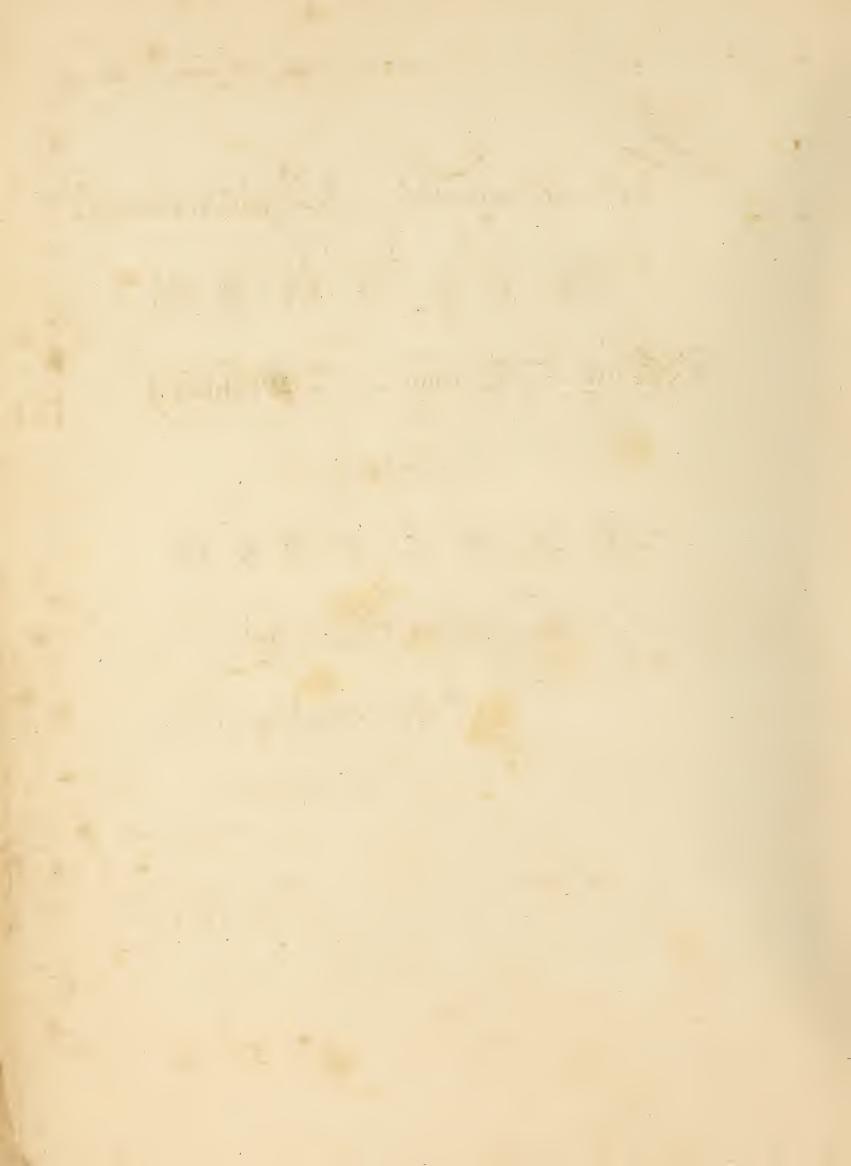
John Garth.

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LONDON;

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M.DCCLVII.



Ge. Konourable and Right Reverends R. I. C. A. R. D. The PSALMS of TARCE BEO LORI SHIP'S most Obliged, and Obedient Servant



Y EORGE the Second, by the Grace of God, King of Great-Britain, France, and Ireland, Defender of the Faith, &c. To all to whom these Prefents shall come, Greeting. Whereas our trusty and well-beloved JOHN GARTH, of Durham, hath, by his Petition, humbly represented unto Us, That he has, with great Labour and Trouble, prepared a Musical Work, to be printed in Eight Volumes Folio, and intitled, The First Fifty Psalms, set to Music by Benedetto Marcello Patrizio Veneto, and now adapted to the English Version by the said Petitioner, with several other Pieces of Vocal and Instrumental Music; and hath therefore humbly befought Us to grant him Our Royal Privilege and Licence for the sole Printing and Publishing thereof for the Term of Fourteen Years: We being willing to give all due Encouragement to Works of this Nature, are graciously pleased to condescend to His Request; and We do therefore, by these Presents, so far as may be agreeable to the Statute in that Behalf made and provided, grant unto him, the faid JOHN GARTH, his Executors, Administrators, and Affigns, Our Licence for the sole Printing and Publishing the said Work, for the Term of Fourteen Years, to be computed from the Date hereof; strictly forbidding all Our Subjects within Our Kingdoms and Dominions to reprint or abridge the fame, either in the like or any other Volume or Volumes whatfoever; or to import, buy, vend, utter, or distribute any Copies thereof reprinted beyond the Seas, during the aforesaid Term of Fourteen Years, without the Consent or Approbation of the faid JOHN GARTH, His Heirs, Executors, and Affigns, under their Hands and Seals first had and obtained, as They will answer the contrary at their Perils; whereof the Commissioners and other Officers of our Customs, the Master, Wardens, and Company of Stationers are to take Notice, that due Obedience may be rendered to Our Pleasure herein declared. Given at Our Court at Kenfington, the Twenty-first Day of May 1756, in the Twenty-ninth Year of Our Reign.

By His Majesty's Command,

A

HOLDERNESSE.



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#### ADVERTISEMENT.

Verse by Verse, throughout each Psalm; and have endeavoured to preserve each particular Design in this Work, by strictly adhering to every Change of Sentiment and Passion, and by adapting the Melody and Empression of Marcello's Music, to the Construction and Prosody of the English Language.

To accomplifing this, and to keep up, as near as possible, to the Variety and Spirit of the Original, which was composed for a poetic and diffusive Paraphrase, it was necessary to change the Words and Sentences in many Places, to adopt others of the same Signification in the Room of those which were found desicient, or improper in their Accent, and to provide a Supply for every Subject in the Music, except in those Subjects where I judged the Repetition of the same Words might have no bad Effect.

For this Purpose, Recourse was had to various Places in the same Version, and to the Bible Translation; also to That of MR EDWARDS on the Plan of BISHOP HARE, and sometimes to other Parts of Scripture: And that this might be done with the utmost Propriety, in Regard to the Connection and Sense of the Words, every Alteration, and Addition of Words, which was thought effential for the Sake of the Music, has been examined and approved by several of our most learned Divines.

With Respect to the Music, it is hoped, no Alterations in That will be found, wherein any material Design of the Composer is injured: Where it was necessary to shorten the Recitative, the principal Modulation is preserved: And where Words of different Syllables required either the dividing of the Minim into Crotchets, &c. or the reducing of Crotchets, &c. to Minims, the original Air, notwithstanding these Alterations, is yet nearly the same; and in both Cases, the Harmony remains untouched: But in most Places, the Meledy of Marcello, and the Construction of the English Words, very happily coincide.

From an impartial View of the Whole of this Work, I flatter myself it will appear, that the Spirit of our sublime and expressive Psalms, is every where preserved in these inimitable Compositions; and that, therefore, they will be considered as proper Performances for the Service of our Cathedrals, for which Purpose chiefly they are adapted to the English Version: And that they will now not only prove useful on this Account, but also give great Pleasure to Lovers of Music in general, I have been encouraged to hope from the Approbation of many Judges who have perused them in Manuscript.

Should the Success of this Publication enable me to proceed according to the Proposals annexed, the same Method and Care which have been employed in this Part, shall be continued throughout the Whole, to render it as worthy as possible of Marcello's Name, and the Encouragement of those who have been pleased to approve and promote this Design.

B

Durham, March, 1757.

JOHN GARTH.



## PREFACE

TO THE

## ORIGINAL WORK.

HE following Poetic and Harmonical Work is now submitted to the Judgment of the Learned, notwithstanding the Disadvantage under which it must necessarily appear, being the first of its Kind, and introduced into the World without any Precedent that might have directed the Method and Disposition of it: But as it pleased the Almighty to suggest to the Minds of its Authors, the Idea of a Design never attempted before, and indeed of too arduous a Nature with regard to their own weak Abilities, it was also the divine Will to endow them with Powers sufficient for the conducting it, in some respect, towards a prosperous End.

The Translation is a Poetical Paraphrase of the *Psalms*, set off with some Ornaments of Poetry, and enlarged by some Expositions, which are, however, sounded on the Authority of our most venerable Commentators; without which Liberty of paraphrasing, it would have been difficult to have connected the Sense, so as to have rendered them easy and intelligible to every one.

And as this Paraphrase, for the most Part, is rather literal than allegorical, we have, in the Construction of it, chiefly followed the Sentiments of those Interpreters who have explained the Sense of the Text according to the Letter.—It differs also from a close and chastised Translation in this respect, that we have sometimes made Choice of those Terms and Expressions, which we judged not only more suitable to the Idiom of our Language, but also of greater Efficacy for enforcing the Sense: And this we have done for the Sake of Perspicuity, every Language having its natural and peculiar Phraseology, the Propriety and Freedom of which are most difficult to be preserved in Translations.

The Verse is, for the most Part, without Rhyme, and of various Metre; and of such are the Psalms themselves in the Hebrew Text. Besides, the Variety and Sublimity of the Subject will scarce admit of an uniform Metre confined to a determinate Number of Verses or Rhymes, as is usually practised in profane Writings. Neither will there be found in this Work any of those arbitrary and sabulous Allegories, never dictated from above to the Royal Prophet, but of which, some Translators have nevertheless thought proper to avail themselves.

On the contrary, we have rather expressly avoided those swelling poetic Terms, and superfluous Digressions, which agree but little with the Subject, and still less with the warm Devotion of the Heart addressing itself to Heaven.—Add to this, that we have written for a kind of Music, which, in its various solemn Airs, should be removed as far as possible from every trivial Expression that may vainly flatter the common Ear.

If this Paraphrase, which is chiefly formed from the Text of the *Vulgate*, should be found in some Parts to differ from it, let it be considered, that for the Sake of Clearness and Connexion, Recourse was sometimes had, both to the *Hebrew*, and to the Septuagint Version.

With regard to the Music, it is adapted to a Subject which requires, principally, the Expression of the Words and the Sentiments. Hence it is, for the most Part, composed for two Voices only, in order to produce more happily the Effect intended. It was for the same

Purpose, and to move the Passions and Affections, that Music was made Use of by the Ancients in Unisons only, particularly by the Hebrews, Phanicians, and Greeks. And tho' it was fung by many and various Kinds of Voices, yet, till the Time of Guido Aretino, who lived about the eleventh Century, the Air was one and the same through all the Parts; sometimes accompanied with one Instrument, and sometimes with another; which sounded the Air or vocal Part itself: And both the Vocal and Instrumental were no otherwise diversified, than by taking the Tone, or Pitch, either above or below: (a) And of those Instruments there are still remaining some imperfect Resemblances among the Monuments of Antiquity, as may be feen in the printed Collections of the Curious, (b) tho' they are not at all suitable to the prefent State of Music amongst us: It should also be observed, that Harmony, (c) which is understood by the Moderns to imply a various Mixture of Voices and Instruments, was anciently no other than a Progression of Sounds, various indeed in respect of their simple or compound Intervals, (d) yet the same considered in Unison.—Such was their Melopaia—But in our Days, the Ear being accustomed to the harmonic Institution of many Parts, the Attempt to approach too nearly to that most happy and simple Melody of the Ancients, might prove no less difficult than dangerous; it was, therefore, judged not improper to compose for two, fometimes for three and four Parts, as may be seen in the following Volumes.

After all, it must be confessed, this Kind of Composition, which may rather be termed an ingenious Counterpoint than natural Melody, is more likely to excite the Admiration of the learned Inquirer, who examines it in Writing, than to affect the Heart and move the Passions of those who hear it in the Performance. And this arises, as well from the perpetual Conflict of Fugues, or Imitations, in the different Parts, as from the Multiplicity of mixed Harmonies, which accompany them, in order to fill and complete the Chorus: And these, in fact, are not real Harmonies according to the undeniable Geometric and Arithmetical Experiments made by the ancient Greek Philosophers, who have discovered a prosound Skill in investigating whatever is truly excellent in this Science. (e)

On the other Hand, it is most certain that during a long Series of Time new Laws, both in Theory and Practice, were continually added; to which, at this Time, we must entirely submit, although far different from those ancient Rules, which produced, in their Music, those marvellous Effects, sully attested by Historians both facred and profane; who inform us likewise of the magnificent Use, and the facred Purposes to which it was applied.

Those who imagine that Simplicity was a Defect in the ancient Music, are greatly deceived; since it was, in Fact, one of its noblest Perfections. Indeed it cannot be doubted, but that by multiplying Instruments and Voices we have rendered our Compositions, in Comparison of those of the Ancients, full of Ornaments and Beauty of a different Kind; more laboured by the many Subjects of which they are composed; more harmonious by the Diversity

- (a) The Ancients composed their Melodies in three different Tones; namely, the Tragic, in deep or grave Sounds, for simple Declaration.—The Dithyrambic, in middle Sounds, for musical Song.—And the Nomic, in the highest, for the Promulgation of their Laws. The Melodies were also divided, with regard to the Intervals or Genera they observed, into the Diatonic, Chromatic, and Enharmonic; and with respect to the Modes, into the Phrygian, Doric, and Lydian. [See critical Reslections on Poetry, Painting, and Music by the Abbé dis Bos. Vol. 3. Chap. 4.]
  - (b) Calmet Dictionaire de la Bibl. Perrault de la Musique des Anciens.
- (c) Among the Ancients Harmony was intended to fignify only the Ratios, or Proportions of the Intervals of Sounds, as measured upon Strings; or calculated by Numbers.—Thus far was Theory.—The reducing this to Practice, considered as an Art, was their Melopxia, or the Method of composing Melody. The Effect was mufical Declamation; musical Air; or musical Accent put in Practice. Hence it appears that the intermediate Melopxia was the only one that produced the Effect of what we call Melody.
- (d) Simple Intervals are those which proceed by contiguous, harmonical Sounds, and the Compound by Thirds, Fourths, &c. &c.
- (e) The Discords which are introduced in the present System of Music, are not according to the arithmetical Calculations of the harmonical Proportions. Nevertheless, tho' a complex and studied Harmony may not produce so instantaneous an Effect; yet, perhaps, when this Kind of Harmony is once understood, the various Simplicities of which it is capable, when joined to some natural Melody, may as forcibly affect the Mind, and posses it much longer.

versity of Voices, and the various Combinations of Concords and Discords, which must necessarily follow in their Construction; and more full and sonorous by the many and different Instruments united in Concert which accompany them. But the simple and unadorned Music of the Ancients, which, according to the divine Plato, consisted, not in Harmony, (f) but in Unisons, did produce, in a better Manner, its proper Effect of moving the Passions; for this Philosopher judged, that the Graces and affected Delicacies of Harmony enervated and broke the Strength and Manliness of the Art; (g) and therefore that this plain and simple Music was more agreeable to Nature, than That which is set off with too many laboured and artificial Ornaments.

If the Ancients, as it is faid, had various Instruments and various Kinds of Voices, which variously proceeded, according to the various Properties and Distributions of their several Systems, Tetrachords, Genera, and Tones (one of which Genera, namely, the Enharmonic, most powerful to excite the Passions, and the most perfect Ornament of the natural Diatonic and artificial Chromatic Genera, is now quite lost in the present Harmonic Construction of Mussic) It must however be supposed that their Songs, Voices, and Instruments, did not consound the Words or perplex the Sense; and though they sung in a numerous Chorus, and sometimes in Harmony, (b) yet was each Word distinctly pronounced by every Singer at the same Moment, nor were then heard any confused Repetitions, or vain Passages, every Interval, or Note, in its minutest Difference, being sensibly felt and enjoyed; nor was one Mode ever mixed with another, but with the utmost Care and Art; least one Passion might be raised instead of another, each particular Passion having its proper Mode, or Melody, assigned to it. Now whoever seriously considers this, will doubtless own, that all these Circumstances must concur to produce all the great Effects of Music, namely, to delight the Ear, affect the Heart, and to enliven and recreate the Mind.

But how far the present Music may be destitute of these Powers, either by the Introduction of new Laws; or, perhaps, by our Negligence in the Use and Application of those Powers, may easily be perceived, when its real Effects are considered, and compared with those mentioned above: For tho' it be copious in its various Harmonies, and various in its pleasing Movements, yet does it not, even in the lowest Degree, produce any of those wonderful Effects of the ancient Music, which, when related, seem (and not without all Appearance of Reason) rather sabulous than true: Let us not, however, suppose, that the modern Music does not give us great Pleasure by its Harmony; for surely, if harsh and discordant Sounds strike the Air with a jarring Shrilness and wound the Ear, those which are smooth and concordant must fill it with Pleasure.

This, upon the whole, is certain, that fince those happy Days, these internal Passions have been raised, and are still raised, by Music; but this is rather the Effect of Melody than a combined and full Harmony: We cannot, however, in any Case expect these Effects without an awakened Attention and Sensibility in the Hearer, and a Mind free from the tumultuous and unruly Passions: Now from the Application and frequent Use of this excellent Cause we may clearly derive the wonderful Effects of ancient Music. To attain the same End,

<sup>(</sup>f) We must here distinguish the Harmony of Air in Music, as the Harmony of Numbers in Poetry: for it no where appears, that the Ancients ever made use of Harmony according to the modern System: But it is evident every where, that they had a Kind of Declamatory Music (perhaps like the Recitative) or simple Melody, without a musical Song. In this Case, the Words must have been distinctly pronounced and heard; whereas in the other, the Air becoming more principal, the Words, of course, would be less understood. But, it seems, the the Simplicity of ancient Air was such, that our Author, a little below, supposes it rather to have affished than to have destroyed the Sense.

<sup>(</sup>g) It is more than probable, that *Plato* disapproved the Additions that were made in his Time to the Compass of Instruments: For in his Book of Laws, he sorbids the Entertainment of Persons who make and use Instruments of many Strings; as the *Trigonus* and *Pectis*: but admits the *Lyra* (with seven Strings) and the *Cithara*, and some simple *Fistulæ*. Therefore, perhaps, what is here meant by the *Graces of Harmony*, may have been the Additions made to their simple Music by increasing the Scale, and multiplying Strings. Or, perhaps, by extending the Compass of their Instruments, they might have formed some Kind of harmonical Accompaniments, which it is highly probable they did; because, in the Progression of their Scale, they had the very Means directly before them; and because such a Harmony might have been produced, without reducing it to the System which it is brought to at present.

<sup>(</sup>h) See the Notes (e) and (f) above.

End, we have found it necessary to use the same Means in our present Labours, as far as the received Taste and Rules of our Times would allow us.

Thus much may be faid, as well for the Sake of Truth, as for obtaining, if not some Praise, at least some favourable Excuse, that we have not in this Work always introduced the present sashionable airy Stile; though we would not be thought to take upon us to reform it; and that, to support, in some Measure, the true Simplicity and manly Gravity of the ancient Stile, we have sometimes transgressed against the Elegancies of the Modern.

But these Prejudices against Music do not merely arise from the Artitself; which is often debased by mean and trivial Poetry, which, instead of rendering it a Subject of Philosophical Speculation, by its Magnificence and Sublimity, produces a contrary Effect, of little or no Estimation, how pleasing soever it may be to some. And this Abuse is not wholly confined to the Theatre, but has even intruded into Places of facred Worship; where it is sometimes rather fitted to excite the soft and esseminate Passions, than to fill the Mind with an honest and calm Delight—to regulate the Manners—to revive Courage—and to inspire us with an awful Veneration of the Most High and his facred Laws. And for these Purposes was this Art learned and cultivated by the Ancients, who, by applying it to the great End for which it was given us by the Almighty, tasted it in its highest Perfection. And to this we must attribute all those wonderful Effects mentioned above, when they sung the Actions of their illustrious Men, their Triumphs, the public Laws, Tragedies, moral Instructions, and the Praises of their Gods.

In order therefore to restore Music to its former Dignity and Service, we have chosen the divine Subject of the Psalms; and to render it again, if not of equal Esticacy with That of the Ancients, by Reason of its different Laws, at least more conformable to the sacred Use for which it was principally intended; namely, the Worship of the Deity.

But tho' the greatest Part of these Psalms, as remarked above, are composed for two Voices only, they ought sometimes to be sung with a Reinforcement of Voices, agreeably to the Directions annexed to the Work itself: And our Reasons for this Conduct in the Performance, which will hereaster be subjoined, may serve to give some Idea of the particular Method which was observed by the Hebrews in singing their Psalms and Canticles.

We may observe in the Holy Scriptures, that Moses, after his miraculous Passage through the Red Sea, composed, on the Occasion, a Canticle or Hymn, which he sung, not alone, but together with the Children of Israel; while his Sister Miriam, at the Head of the Women with Timbrels, according to the Custom of that Time, gave the Intonation of the same Hymn.(i)—That David afterwards introduced the Method of singing in many Choruses.—That he composed many Hymns and Psalms which were sung in the Tabernacle, and in other Religious Ceremonies—That the Sons of Asaph, of Heman, and of Jeduthun (chief Directors of the Music in the Temple under the Reigns of David and Solomon) presided at the Head of twenty-sour Choruses of Musicians, which Choruses were distinguished and divided according to the different Instruments they sounded (which were preserved in the Temple to an almost instinte Number) and according to the different Places which they occupied in the Temple: Hence the Sons of Jeduthun sounded the Kinor, or Lyre: Those of Asaph, the Nabal, or Psalter: And those of Heman, the Mezilothaim; which was a Kind of Bell, or hollow Instrument of Metal.

When we consider the prodigious Number which were here employed in celebrating the Praises of the Deity, we shall see it is highly reasonable to multiply our Voices in this Case; which must, however, be done in some just Proportion: For in the first Place, the Chorus of those who exalt the divine Praises, should be as numerous and full as possible; and also these Psalms, tho' for the most Part composed for two Voices only, will produce a more noble Effect, when the Chorus Parts are reinforced, than when they are performed only by two Singers; and these, perhaps, not always ready in their Execution: Or however skilful they may be in this, or excellent in other Respects, yet if they be too long heard, their Performance

<sup>(</sup>i) Perhaps, gave the Pitch, or led the Chorus, or repeated with her Chorus of Women, at proper Intervals, the Intercalary Verse, or Burthen of the Song. See Exod. 15.

formance will be less pleasing, than when the Parts are redoubled; this being necessary to render it sometimes more solemn or more enlivening and full, according as the Words or Sentiments require a more powerful Emphasis and Expression; which was usually practised among the *Hebrews*, not by one or two Persons, as now a Days, but by a great Number together.

In some Parts of this Work, besides some Psalms which are composed throughout for one Voice only, are also introduced Recitatives, and a Species of Airs to be sung by one Voice only, or, alternately by two, (which was likewise in Use among the Ancients, and was called Alternate Singing) to diversify the Hearers Pleasure by some Variety borrowed from modern Practice, and at the same Time to approach, in some Degree, to that of the Pracentors, or Chief Musicians among the Hebrews, as may be collected from Scripture.

We have for this Reason more frequently composed for Tenors than for Trebles; seeing these latter too delicate and acute Voices, were not used by the Hebrews, or other ancient Nations; Pythagoras having forbid the exceeding the Quadrupla: In the first Place, that Harmony, according to Theory, might always be heard; which cannot arise from any Proportion of the Multiple, Super-particular, or Super-partient kind, among the Numbers 5, 4, 3, 2, 1. And also, that the Voices, according to Practice, might not be carried beyond their natural Compass; as in this Case, by exceeding the Quadrupla, they would either be seigned or forced, so as easily to render them offensive to the Ear (k)—It is true, indeed, that the Necessity of the modern Figurate Descant, (l) for the Institution of which the fifth Tetrachord was added to the ancient System by Guido Aretino, often requires us to exceed the Scale of Pythagoras; yet not in the Tenors, but in the Trebles only: And of these, which have, in general, but a moderate Compass, none should exceed the last super-added Tetrachord.

It was thought not improper to introduce, in these Psalms, several of the most ancient and most common Intonations, or Chants of the Hebrews, which were formerly, and are still sung by the Jews, as a Species of Music peculiar to that People. These Chants we have sometimes accompanied after the modern artificial System, as will be seen in the second, and more diffusively in the third and sourth Volumes, together with some ancient Greek Odes, taken from printed and manuscript Remarks on those Hymns; although made Use of by the Heathens to celebrate the Praises of their false Gods. And these we have interpreted, with the utmost Care, according to the musical Characters of two ancient Greek Philosophers, Alipius and Gaudentius, which we have now adapted to the modern Practice.

Nor was it thought inexpedient to adapt a peculiar Kind of Music to those Mysterious and Emphatic Sentences, in which the Royal Prophet hath denounced the dreadful Vengeance of Divine Justice. These we have attempted to express by some foreign and uncommon Researches in the most extreme Diatonico-chromatic Modulation, leaning upon the Equivocal Chord, (m) and, therefore, imperfect in the Scale of our modern Instruments, particularly in that of the Harpsicord. In this Case, our present Labours, not unaptly, may be considered like that of the Pilot, who, in a wide and tempestuous Ocean, embraces every Wind that may conduct him safe to the desired Port; yet, in a long and dangerous Voyage, is sometimes constrained to vary his Course.

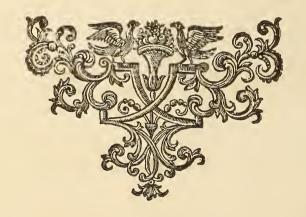
We come now to the Execution of the Pfalms: This ought to be exact throughout; more especially in the Chorus; as when Music is intended for the Solemnity of divine Worship,

- (k) This Conduct, however must not be applied to the Construction of Instrumental Music: since the greater the Scale, the more Room both for Melody and Accompanyment: And where the former is not carried to an extravagant Compass, and the latter not crowded, the Effects of extended Melodies and distant Harmonies are sometimes very pleasing.
  - (1) The Use of Discords as practifed by modern Composers.

<sup>(</sup>m) The Chromatic Diesis, or extreme Sharp, which by the Composers Art, may be contrived to dwell upon the Ear, so as to leave it doubtful to what Harmony it properly belongs, and may be carried into extreme disterent Melodies at Pleasure. Hence it is called the Equivocal Chord. But the Enharmonic Diesis, or quarter Tone, can only be expressed by the Voice, and by that with great Dissiplied, therefore it is not used in the present System of Harmony.

we should never attempt those vague and florid Ornaments, which but ill suit with the truly devout and attentive Mind. Let not the Performer, therefore, embellish the Subject, unless he can form his Graces, like the skilful Musician, in perfect Cadence of Time, and Decorum of Manner and Voice; and, with Clearness of Expression, distinctly articulate and resound each Syllable and Note. Also, the Ripieno Accompaniments of various Basses ought to be as numerous, and disposed in as exact Proportion as possible, in order to supply, in the best Manner, the Use of the ancient Instruments, that from the whole together may be derived the full and proper Effect for which it was composed.

The first twenty five Psalms are here offered to the Public. If they meet with a favourable Reception, the Authors will think themselves well rewarded for their Labours bestowed on this, no inconsiderable Work. But if such and so various are its Defects, as rather to merit the Severity of Censure than an indulgent Approbation, may it please the Almighty (for whose Service they have employed those Talents he imparted to them) to inspire others with a like Ardour and Resolution to pursue this Track; which, however is neither easy nor plain: And in this Case, they will at least, have the Consolation of being the first that led the Way; and, at the same Time, may be admonished of those Errors, into which, through the Weakness of the human Mind, they may inadvertantly have been betrayed.



## ME MOIRS

OF THE

L I F E

OF

## BENEDETTO MARCELLO, N.H.\*

ENEDETTO MARCELLO, Patrician of Venice, was born at Venice on the 24th of July 1686.

His Father was Agostino Marcello, (a) a most worthy Senator, Son of Alessandro Marcello; his Mother, Pagling, was Daughter of Girolamo Cappello, (b) both of

Marcello; his Mother, Paolina, was Daughter of Girolamo Cappello, (b) both of them illustrious, as well for their fingular Endowments of Mind, as for the Nobility of their Birth

Benedetto gave very early and fure Indications of his peculiar Talent, which, continually improving and displaying itself, rose, at length, to a great Excellence in Poetry and Music.

In the Year 1718, he published a little Collection of Love Sonnets, under the Title of Driante Sacreo Pastor Arcade; which he dedicated to the celebrated Giovanni Mario Crescembeni of Macerata, under the Name of Alfostov Cario, one of the Founders of the Academy of Arcadians, into which Benedetto, from his great Reputation, had been some Time before elected; as appears from the Catalogue of illustrious Arcadians given in the History of the Italian Poetry, Vol. vi. P. 378. of the Venice Edition 1730 in 4to.

In the Year 1722, he published an elegant little Work, intitled, Teatro alla Moda, of which there have been a great many Editions. The Judgment which the Marquis Scipio Massei has given of this excellent Performance, which is in the gay, lively, and facetious Stile, may be seen in the third Volume of his Literary Observations, P. 308, Edition of Verona 1738; and that of Signior Appostolo Zeno in his Letters; both of them much to the Honor of the Author.

But his principal Faculty, and that in which he was chiefly employed, was Music. His natural Genius and strong Propensity to this Study was first awakened by a pleasant Incident in his own Family, which raised in his Mind a high Spirit of Emulation and Honor, and which deserves to be mentioned.

The Princes of Brunswick happened to be at Venice; and as Alessandro Marcello, his elder Brother, used to hold regularly, one Day in the Week at his own House, an Academy of Music, in which his own Compositions, both Vocal and Instrumental, were performed; the Princes being at one of these Assemblies, and understanding that Benedetto, who was present and at that Time very young, was Alessandro's Brother, they took Occasion to ask him in a polite Manner, in what Study He employ'd himself: Oh, says Alessandro, with an Air of Banter,

<sup>\*</sup> The following Account of the Life of Benedetto Marcello was procured from the Family at Venice, and communicated to us by an English Lady of Distinction, now residing in that City.

<sup>(</sup>a) In the Line of those of La Maddalena.

<sup>(</sup>b) She was Sifler to the Father of Pietro Andrea Cappello, Ambassador at the Courts of Spain; Vientia, England and Rome, at which last Place he is now for the second Time in the same Character.

<sup>†</sup> It is to be observed, that all the Members of the Accademia degli Arcadi (a samous Literary Society at Rome) take upon themselves, as such, sistious Names, and stile themselves Passori Arcadi.

#### MEMOIRS, &c.

Banter, His Employment is to fetch me my Papers, which fuits well enough with one of his Age. This innocent Pleasantry of his Brother pierced the sensible Mind of Benedetto: He was piqued, and from a Point of Honor, gave himself up from that Time wholly to Music; and he succeeded in it to Admiration.

It is as impossible to recount the Number and Variety of his Compositions, as to speak of them in Terms equal to their superior Excellence.§

In the Year 1716, when the Birth of the eldest Son of the Emperor Charles VI. was celebrated at Vienna, he composed the Music for the Serenata which was performed there on that Occasion. Concerning this Incident and our Author's Composition, the Reader may see what the above-mentioned Signior Appostolo Zeno has written in his Letters which are printed; as likewise what is said in the Conclusion of the Dedication of a Book, intitled, Trattato delle viziose maniere di disender le Cause nel Foro, printed at Venice 1748, where in a clear, but a little too concise Manner, an Account is given of Him, and of his two Brothers (c).

The Fifty Pfalms of David set to Music by Him (d) were received with the highest Applause.

The Muscovites translated the Italian Paraphrase into their own Language, that they might have the Pleasure of enjoying the Music; and some Sheets of this Performance were transmitted to the Author in his Life-time at Venice. One of these Psalms was performed every Week at the Palace of Cardinal Ottoboni at Rome, where the principal Nobility, both Ecclesiastical and Secular, were assembled. When the News of the Death of Benedetto, in the Year 1739, was brought thither, his Eminence did him the Honor to give a public Testimony of the Esteem and Assection which he had for him.—He ordered, that on the Day appointed for the usual Assembly, a solemn Academy should be held in Mourning: The Room where they met was hung with Black; Father Santo Canal, a Jesuir, made the Oration; and the most eminent of the Learned of that Time rehearsed their respective Compositions upon the Occasion in various Languages, in the Presence of the many considerable Personages there assembled.

He

- § There are many Cantatas and Duetts of our Author to be met with in the Collections of Manuscript Music in these Kingdoms. We have also a complete Performance with his Name to it, dated 1733, and intitled Il Trionso della Poesia edella Musica, nel celebrarsi La Morte, &c. di Maria sempre Virgine assunta in Cielo, Oratorio sacro a sei Voci, the Music of which bears the strong Characters of Marcello's great and affecting Simplicity in Composition.
- (c) "Of his great Skill in Music, we shall not here repeat what has been already said: The many and elabo"rate Performances which he has given to the Public will for ever remain an ample and undoubted Proof of it;
  in which, having surpassed all that have gone before him, he has cut off from those that shall succeed him all
  "Hopes of ever being able to equal him."
- (d) "Who is there among either the Professors or Lovers of Music, that is not acquainted with his great "Work upon the Fifty Psalms of David, printed in Eight Volumes in Folio? A Work, which comprehends all the Kinds, and all the Modes of the Music of every polite Nation; the Copies of which were quickly spread thro' all the Courts of Europe."

In the feveral Volumes of this Work, there are Letters addressed to the Author from most of the distinguished Composers who lived at that Time; and all of them express their Admiration of Marcello's happy Talent in the Execution of this Design. In a Letter from Gasparini, printed in the first Volume, it appears that Marcello received his first Rudiments of Music from that eminent Composer during his Residence at Venice: and after Gasparini's Departure to Rome, that a Correspondence, by Letters, subsisted long between them. Marcello submitted these Psalms to the Inspection of his old Master, who, with great Justice and Candour, acknowledges the superior Genius of his illustrious Pupil, as the only Composer who, to the Simplicity of the Ancient, had added the Graces of the modern Music, and thence formed a System of Harmony entirely his own.

† In Matheson's Letter from Hamburgh, which is printed in the fixth Volume of this Work, there is an Account, that Part of Marcello's Psalms had been adapted to the German Language, and performed by a select Band of Singers to a numerous Congregation in the Cathedral there; and, that all expressed a Pleasure and Admiration never known before on any like Occasion. It does not, however, appear, that these Psalms have been published any where, but at Venice by the Author himself: And, perhaps, the Publication of this great Work, adapted to our own Version of the Psalms, may be reserved for the Honor of this Nation, where every Work of Genius is sure to find Encouragement and Protection.

## MEMOIRS, &c.

He distinguished himself in a very extraordinary Manner by two Cantatas, the one intitled Il Timoteo; the other La Cassandra\*; in which he wonderfully displayed his extensive Knowledge and Abilities. The Reader may see what the learned Signior Abate Conti says of them, in the First Volume of his Works, printed at Venice in the Year 1739 (e).

He composed likewise many excellent Pieces of sacred Music for the Service of the Church. His Cantata for the Mass, is highly celebrated, and was performed for the first Time, in the Church of Santa Maria della Celestia, on Occasion of Donna Alessandra Maria Marcello, his Brothers Daughter, taking the Veil in that Monastery.

The Lamentations of Jeremiah, the Miserere, the Salve, and a great many other Compositions of the same Kind, he gave to the Clergy of Santa Sophia, and instructed them in the just Execution of them.

He many Years held a musical Academy at the House of Agostino Coletti, Organist of the Church of the Holy Apostles; where he always presided at the Harpsicord, and kept all the Performers, Instrumental and Vocal, under his own Direction; who, in their respective Appointments, always acknowledged his Authority, and the Improvement they received from it.

He printed a Collection of Sonnetts, which he intitled Sonetti a Dio, with various other Compositions on sacred Subjects, of which there were two numerous Impressions in a short Time. This Work he published as a Forerunner of another infinitely greater, which he did not live to finish, as he hoped to have done: To prepare himself for this learned and sublime Undertaking, he first employed some Years in the Study of Theology and the Holy Fathers. See what the Author of the Dedication prefixed to the Treatise above-mentioned, Delle viziose maniere di disender le Cause nel Foro, says of it. (f)

At the same Time that he was employed in such Studies, and so many and various Works, he moreover executed, with great Attention for many Years, the honorable but delicate Office of Judge in the Councils of Forty; † from which, he removed to the Charge of Count and Proveditor of Pola; afterwards to that of Chamberlain or Treasurer in the City of Brescia; where he gained the Affection and Esteem of all Orders of Men, and above all

- \* This latter Cantata, which is in the Possession of feveral of our musical Virtuosi in England, contains a Variety of Movements sufficient for an Entertainment of three Hours Performance.
- (e) Signr. Abate Conti expresses himself as follows, in a Letter to his Excellence Signr. Girolamo Ascanio Ginstiniani, with which he sends the two Cantatas of Timoteo and Cassandra.
- "Dryden, a celebrated English Poet, in an Ode for Music introduces Timotheus, who, singing to Alexander, one while of Wars and Victories; another, of Tenderness and Love; then of the sain in Battle and their Ghosts; and of other Subjects which move Terror or Compassion, raises in him, by turns, all the fostest, and the most furious Passions. I was so pleased with the Newness of this Thought, that so long ago as when I was in France, I translated it out of English into Italian Verse, changing the Lyric Form of the Poem into Dramatic, by introducing the Chorus, and two Persons, one of which explains the Subject of the Song, the other is "Timotheus himself, who sings. Benedetto Marcello being pleased with the Poem, composed of it that noble Ganwards desired to have the whole Variety of Passions, expressed in Timotheus, brought into a Poem, by Means of some other Fable or Story, in which one Person only should speak. I, recollecting that first Euripides, and then "Lycophron, introduce Cassandra to foretell the Missfortunes that should befall, in the one Case the Greeks, in the other the Trojans, undertook to imitate them; and to give Magnissence and Beauty to the Imaginations of Poetry, I put into the Mouth of Cassandra, in the Form of a Prophecy, the most memorable Events celebrated by Homer in the Iliad. Marcello was pleased with the Invention, and adorned it with all those Colours of "Harmony, which are most interesting, surprising, and delightful: And I think I say every thing, when I compare the Music of the Cassandra, making due Allowance for the Difference of the Subject, to That of the Psalms paraphrased by your Excellence, and fung with so much Applause at Venice, Vienna, and Padua."
- "(f) Benedetto was not only possessed of those admirable Qualities, the Genius, and Spirit formed by Nature for Lyric Poetry, as appears evidently from his celebrated Sonnetts, both amorous and sacred, which are published; but in the last Years of his Life, he had undertaken, and carried on with incredible Application, an "Epic Poem, on the Subject of the Redemption of Mankind: A Work, which, by his untimely Death, is left imperfect, but which is full of a most prosound Theology, and surnished with select Authorities, both facred and prosane. It is written with great Purity of Style, and shews that he had a singular Readiness and Power of Expression in Poetry."

† There are at Venice three different Councils of Forty: They are Courts of Justice, and consist each of Forty Judges.

## MEMOIRS, &c.

of his Eminence Cardinal Querini, who encouraged frequent Visits from him in the most familiar Manner, and had once a Week a Literary Conference with him upon his Epic Poemmentioned above.

He died at *Brescia* in the Year 1739, in the Month of July, at Ten o'Clock at Night, on the Eve of St James's Day, aged 52 Years, 11 Months, and 28 Days. § He was buried in the Church of the Fathers Minor Observants of St Joseph in Brescia, with very honorable Funeral Pomp; and on his Tomb Stone of Marble, in the middle of the Church, is engraved the following Inscription.

BENEDICTO. MARCELLO. PATRITIO. VENETO.
PIENTISSIMO. PHILOLOGO. POETÆ. MUSICES. PRINCIPI.
QUESTORI. BRIXIENSI. UXOR. MOESTISSIMA.
POSUIT.
ANNO. MDCCXXXIX. VIII. KALENDAS. AUGUSTI.
VIXIT. ANNOS. LII. MENSES. XI. DIES. XXVIII.

While he was at *Brescia* he wrote a very elegant Poem, which he intitled *Volo Pindarico Eroicomico*, in which, feigning himself to be carried with a sudden Flight to the Coffee-Housein the *Campo + of St Felice*, at *Venice*, which he used to frequent to meet the many Friends he had there, he describes, in a pleasing and lively Strain of Humour, the peculiar Manners and Character of each of them; and then gives them the like Information of his own Way of Life at *Brescia*, and of the most respectable Persons among those, whose Friendship he there enjoyed.

He left in Manuscript some Admonitions in Prose, to his Nephew Lorenzo Alessandro, a Person of great Genius and Learning, Son of Alessandro, a most worthy Senator. These Admonitions consist of Counsels and Precepts, expressing his own great Piety and Religion, and sull of that Prudence which he himself had acquired.——Also, twenty-five Cantos of the Poem above-mentioned.—A Treatise of Proportions.—Another of the Musical System.—Another of the Harmonical Concords, and a great Number of Compositions, serious and pleasant, in various Measures; as Sonetti, Canzoni, Terzine; which are in the Possession of the abovementioned Signior Lorenzo Alessandro, his Nephew.

His Pourtrait has been done from the Life, by Father Molino, Patrician of Venice, Benedictine Monk of the Convent of St Giorgio Maggiore, and Brother of Sabastiano, a most honorable Senator.

Of the most noble Family of Marcello, ancient in its Origin, and famous for the illustrious Persons which in every Age have flourished in it, Mention is made by all the Historians of Venice, and the oldest Chronicles in Manuscript: And among the Moderns, by Casimire Frescoth, Bruzen la Martiniere in his Geographical Dictionary under the Article Venice, and Marco Foscarini in his excellent Treatise of the Italian Literature.

§ Mort nell'anno 1739, nel Mese di Agosto all'ore dieci della notte venendo il giorno di S. Giacomo, in eta' d'anni 52, Mesi 11 Giorni 28.

There is some Mistake in the Date of the Day of Marcello's Birth, or in that of his Death. It appears, by this Account, that he died on his Birth Day; consequently he must have been sull 53 Years old: But where the Error lies, we cannot take upon us to determine; we have, therefore, given it to the Reader as it stands in the Manuscript. In Italy the Day begins an Hour after Sun-set, whence they compute the Hours 24 to Sun-set again: But among the better Sort of People, our Way of telling the Hours begins to prevail; and, in this Account of Marcello's Death, they are reckoned according to our Manner, tho' at the same Time, the Day is made to begin at Sun-set, which is somewhat inconsistent. What is called in the Manuscript 10 o'Clock at Night, St James's Day coming on (i. e. the 25th of July and the 8th of the Kalends of August) we should call the Night of the 24th of July.—The Author has made another Mistake, and put August (which Word he happened to cast his Eye upon, in the Epitaph, without attending to the Use of it there) for July.

<sup>†</sup> Square or Court.

REMARKS

ONTHE

## P S A L M S

O F

M A R C E L L O.

ARCELLO's PSALMS, notwithstanding their Excellence, are far from being generally known in England; and, perhaps, there are some, even of our best Judges, who cannot at present determine what Rank of Merit they may deserve amongst musical Performances: But it is hoped they will soon be universally known, by Means of the present extensive Design of adapting them to the English Version. For this Purpose, the following Account and Character of the original Work is now laid before the Public, as also this Specimen in our own Language; and I hope those who are capable of judging, will impartially consider, how far some effectual Encouragement for publishing the whole Work would improve our present Music, and redound to the Honor of the British Virtuosi.

We may observe in the Preface of Marcello, but more especially in his Method of Composition, how greatly the Melody of the Ancients hath engaged his Attention; and how copiously he hath exerted his deep Skill in a great Variety of unaccustomed Harmonies.—Hence the Simplicity of those grand and affetting Modulations, which abound in this Work; and the many uncommon Transitions which excite, not only our Pleasure, but Admiration, that such natural and obvious Beauties should not occur to every Composer.

Inequalities, indeed, are to be found in the best Performances; and I am ready to acknowledge, that the Psalms of Marcello are not free from Imperfections; but these, I think, are the Imperfections of Genius; and therefore I freely leave them to the candid Censure of those whose Genius and Capacity make them Judges. Some Objections, however, have been made to this Work, which do not appear just; and the taking Notice of these will give me an Opportunity of saying something on the Character of the Author.

First, It has been alledged, that, if particular Psalms, or Parts of Psalms, had been selected for this Work, instead of proceeding regularly so far as it is carried, the Music would not only have been more useful for the Church, but even more entertaining in the Chamber.

Secondly, It has been said, that the Movements, are, in general, too short; and that often one Subject is no sooner produced than it is quitted for another.

Lastly, That many Passages in this Work have been taken from Corelli.

#### To remove these OBJECTIONS I shall observe,

First, That a Succession of very different Movements, which are intended to express very different Passions, is much more likely to keep Attention awake, and to afford, on the Whole, a much greater Degree of Pleasure through a long Performance, than if it were only sustained by some continued Chain of uniform Movements.

### REMARKS, &c.

Secondly, As the Subjects of the Psalms are various and desultory, so that the Passions and Sentiments are frequently and suddenly changed in the same Psalm; the Composer was to express these Changes in his Music. And in this chiefly consists the superior Excellence of the Work. It was this great Variety and frequent Change of Sentiments and Fassion, which gave Scope to the unbounded Genius of Marcello; and gave him Occasion to invent so various a Melody. And this will render his Work an inexhaustible Resource for all future Composers.

As to the last Objection, it must be owned, that some of the finest Harmonies of Corelli appear to be adopted by Marcello: But I think this no Diminution of Marcello's Talents. The numerous Exceitencies, which are confessedly bis own, will ever secure him the Character of an original Composer. It may be observed, that Persons of real Genius often strike out the same great and beautiful Sentiments, without any Communication with each other; and, I believe, an Author often uses the Images and Sentiments of another of similar Genius, whom he has read with Admiration, even without suspecting they are not his own. Besides, there is, perhaps, as much Art often shewn in the Improvement and happy Expression of the Thoughts of another, or in adapting them justly to a new Purpose, as in the original Invention: And I desire it may be considered, whether Marcello has not done this in the Harmonies he is supposed to have taken from Corelli.—We may say he seems to create the Harmonies of Corelli, and make them his own, as La Bruyere said, Boileau did the Thoughts of other Poets. "Celui—cy passe Juvenal, atteint Horace, semble creer les Penses d'autrui et se rendre propre tout ce qu'il mani; il a dans ce qu'il emprunt des autres toutes les Graces de la nouveauté, et toute le merite de l'invention."

The Work of every true Genius is, as I apprehend, a Whole; and the Excellence and Beauty of it arises from the just Harmony and Fitness of the several Parts: And in this Light I could wish every Psalm of MARCELLO may be viewed by the best Judges.

Let the general Design of the Whole be first considered; let the just Expression of every particular Part be attended to; let the Whole have an adequate Performance; and then the Genius and Talents of Marcello will appear in their full Lustre: These Psalms will then be found so excellent; and the great and affecting Strokes, both of Nature and Art so numerous, that sew Subjects of Censure will be found. But these Beauties may not, indeed, be so easily comprehended from any partial, desultory, or impersest Performance; nor yet from the nicest Examination of them in Writing: Since many, very singular Beauties, entirely arise from certain Contrivances in the Composition, which can never be fully tasted and known, if not effectually performed: Of which many remarkable Instances will be observed in this Work—.

——Such are the Changes from lively Movements to pathetic; and e contra, in their various Degrees.—The Breaks and Pauses, which mark the Bounds of the Passions:—
The extreme Modulations, which denote some Elevation or Enthusiasm in the Sentiments:
—Such also, in a particular Manner, is the noble Contrast between the Solo and the Chorus of many Voices; which Fullness is intended, not only for enforcing some peculiar Expression, but also, as a general Aid, for relieving the Ear by every possible Variety.—To these we may add, the Imitation of Thunder; the raging of the Sea and of Floods and Tempests, &c. by the accompanying Basses, while the Vocal Parts are employed in some awful and correspondent Expression. And this is also the Case, where Expression alone is required; as in the Sublimity of Praise—The Chearfulness of Devotion—And the Sorrow of Contrition: Each of which are expressed in their respective Stiles, and can be fully felt in the Performance only.

To illustrate what has been said, I shall now refer to the Works themselves; and point out such Parts of them, as perfectly coincide with the several Characters of Expression here noted. And as the want of Attention, rather than the want of Abilities, often prevents us from discerning the Beauties in Music; it will, I hope, be thought no ill Expedient, to distinguish, in the following Manner, those Beauties in MARCELLO, which deserve a more particular Observation.

### REMARKS, &c.

In the 9th Psalm, which includes also the 10th of our Version, \* and in the 18th Psalm, (both which are very long Performances) the Subjects are remarkably various, and some of them carried into extreme Modulations.—In the 29th and 33d Psalm are several very grand Imitations in the *Instrumental* Basses: And where these are employed, there is always some Stroke of natural Beauty in the *Vocal* Melody.

Under the various Stiles of Expression, the respective Psalms may be classed thus:

—Under the Sublime; the 2, 18, 19, 24, 26, 29, 35, 48, and 50th Psalm.—The foyous; the 21, 33, and 47th.—The Learned; the 37, 44, and 49th.—The Chearful; the 45, and 34th.—The Serene; the 1, 8, 15, 16, 28, 40, 41, and 42d.—The Pastoral; the 23d.—The Devout; the 4, 5, 25th, and 39th.—The Plaintive; the 3, 6, and 38th.—The Sorrowful; the 22, and 51st Psalm.

I cannot omit, under this Head, a more particular Mention of the Penitential Psalms. The 22d is composed for one Voice only, accompanied by Tenor Violins; which Instruments, when skilfully managed, are the best adapted for expressing mournful Sounds. The 51st, for three Voices, is also accompanied by Tenors; and designed for the Reinforcement of many Voices and Instruments of the same Kind. The Subject, in both these Psalms, is the Prayer of a deeply afflicted and penitent Sinner. And as Music, perhaps, may be made more expressive of the Passion of Grief than of any other: The Composer, in these Performances, hath expressed this Passion by such various moving Accents in his Melody, that the sensible Hearer is every where affected by them.

It must, however, be observed, that most of these Psalms have some Movements different from the general Character, which is here appropriated to them: And also, that the Psalms, not specified, are too various in their Meanings to be classed under any one general Character; some of them containing, in themselves, almost all the various Stiles of Expression. The principal Movements of those, are—

The 8, 13, 14, 15, and 17th Verse of the 7th Psalm.—The 7th V. of the 11th P.—. The 1st and 7th V. of the 12th P.—. The 1, 2, and 6th V. of the 13th P.—. The 1, 6, 7, and 11th V. of the 14th P.—. The 3d and 6th V. of the 17th P.—. The 1, 2, and 10th V. of the 20th P.—. The 1, 2, and 20th V. of the 27th P.—. The 1st and 15th V. of the 30th P.—. The 1, 5, 8, 11, 19, 23, &c. of the 31st P.—. The 1st, 3, 8, and 11th V. of the 32d P.—. The 36th Psalm throughout.—The 4th and 11th V. of the 46th Psalm.

The Verses here specified are, in general, adapted to regular Movements; and their respective Characters will be easily distinguished by those who are Judges of Music, and of the Passions which it can best express. The entire Psalms referred to have also their regular Movements, consisting in grand and joyous Fugues; serene and graceful Airs; and devoutly pathetic Strains, eminently distinguished, as the Master-Works of each Design, amongst numerous solemn and rapid short Airs: And by a just Expression of these, in their several Stiles, a sentimental or impassioned Music is every where produced.

Those Psalms which are classed under the Character of the Learned, are of that Species of Music which is distinguished by the Term Da Capella; and are composed, like our Full Anthems and Services, for the more frequent Uses of Divine Service.

Most of the other Psalms may be considered as Verse Anthems, containing different Movements for two, three, or four Voices; and, like them, may be reinforced in the Chorus, at Pleasure. But of these Psalms (excepting those for two Voices, which may also be reinforced in the Chorus) there are none in this Volume; which, however excellent in all other respects, is yet inferior to the other Volumes, in regard to the Variety, Grandeur, and Solemnity of the Subjects.

THE

<sup>\*</sup> The 9th and 10th Psalms being united in the Italian Paraphrase, our 51st Psalm becomes included in this Work. It is necessary, therefore, to observe, that the following Reservences are made to the Psalms, as they are numbered in the English Version.

### REMARKS, &c.

The Solo Psalms, are the 8th, 15, 16, 22, 39, 43, and 47th. Some of these are accompanied with Tenors or Violoncellos: And, where these Instruments are wanting, they may be supplied by the Organ, with nearly the same Effect. Others again are intended for the Reinsorcement of many Voices, in Imitation of the ancient Music, as sung by a numerous Chorus in Unisons.

At the Close of the eighth and last Volume, there is a perpetual Canon for six Voices, set to Part of the 4th Verse of the 19th Psalm.—" Their Sound is gone out into all Lands: "and their Words into the Ends of the World."—This abstruct and laboured Piece the Composer hath annexed to his Work; to shew the Admirers of Counterpoint, how far he might have extended his Skill in this perplexed Branch of Harmony. But he was sensible, that the Music, which required an intense Application in the Composition, must also require a severe Attention to the Performance of it. Consequently, that this kind of artful Harmony could never produce the ready and happy Effects of a natural Music.

From this short View of the Character of Marcello's Psalms, together with the first Volume now published, it is hoped at least to raise so much Attention, that they may be impartially considered by the best Judges. And since there is a proper and solemn Music, which, from Time immemorial, has been appointed for the Service of Religion; the Psalms of Marcello, I hope, will be found to deserve that Character; and prove, as they are now adapted to the English Version, of great and signal Use; particularly the Full Psalms, which every accustomed Singer may execute with Ease, and, at the same Time, hear with Pleasure and Improvement. Were these Psalms circulated through this Kingdom, and joined to some established Collection of the Old Services, as a Body of solemn Compositions for the Church, (which is now proposed to the Public by Dr Boyce, after the Plan of the late Dr Green) they would soon be sound a most noble and useful Acquisition to the Choir Music: and that such Improvements are not unnecessary, may reasonably be presumed, from the Design of these two eminent Masters, for restoring its Services to their original Correctness and Excellence.

Upon the whole, I flatter myself, it will appear, that most of those Things which have been deemed Impersections in Marcello's Work, chiefly arose from the great Extent and Variety of his Genius; and are, in Reality, his greatest Excellencies. Upon a serious Review of what has been said, I do not think I have exaggerated the Genius of Marcello. His Psalms, after long Experience, appear to me fraught with every musical Beauty: And I believe, that, from every Improvement in the Personance, fresh Beauties will be discovered in the Composition.—In fine; wherever the Psalms of Marcello have been known, they have been admired: And every Succession of true Lovers of Music will admire them, till Time, and the Art itself, shall be no more.

Newcastle, March 1757.

CHARLES AVISON.

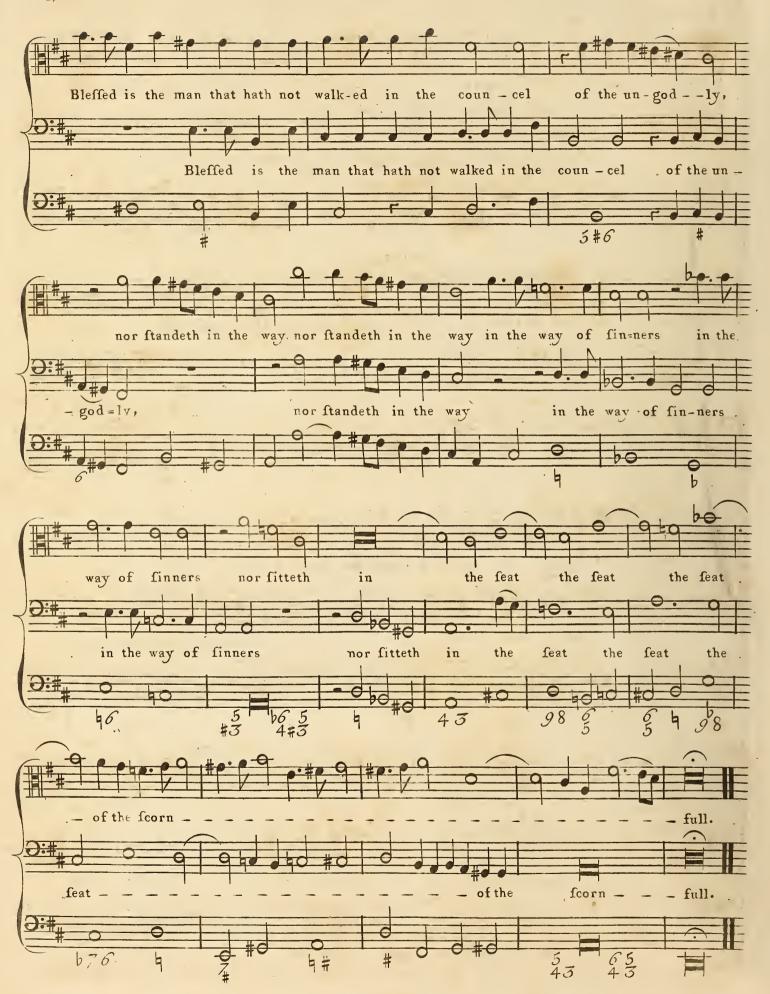
# PSALM I

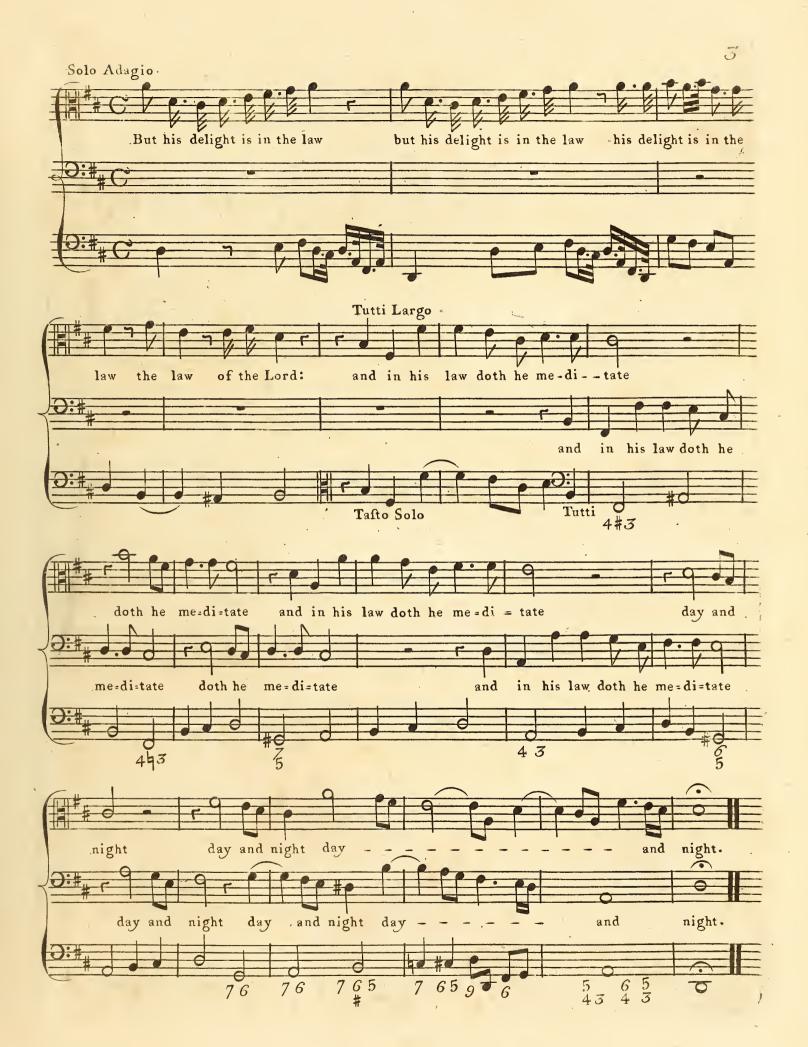
## A DUE

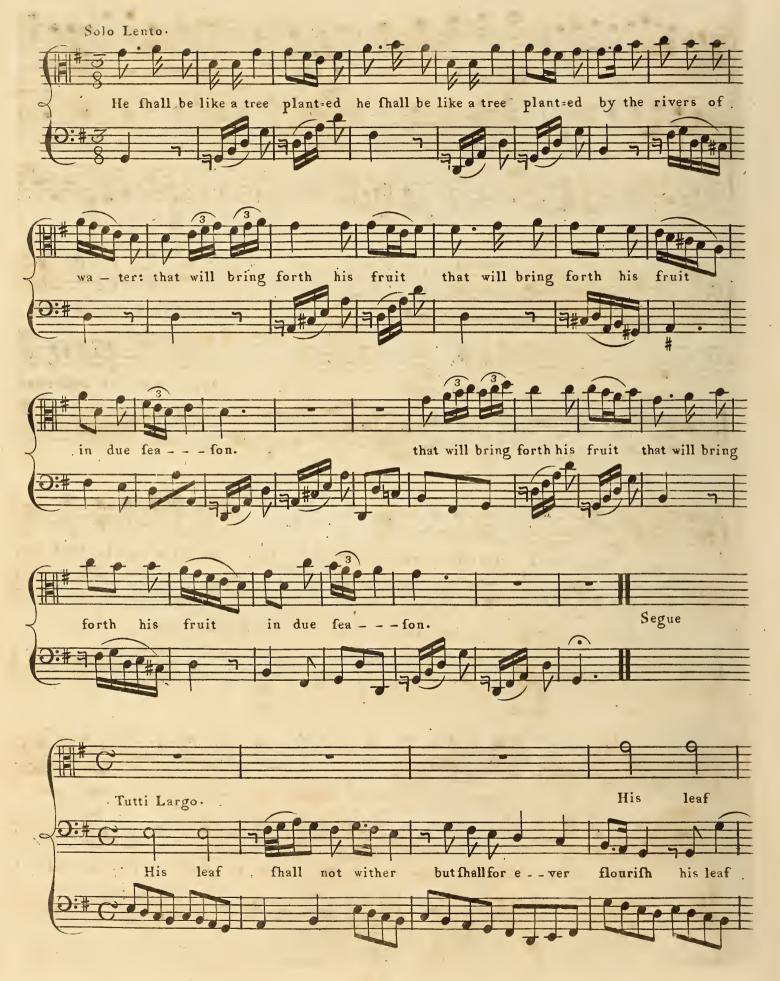
## ALTO, E BASSO.

Beatus vir qui non abiit in consilio impiorum &c.

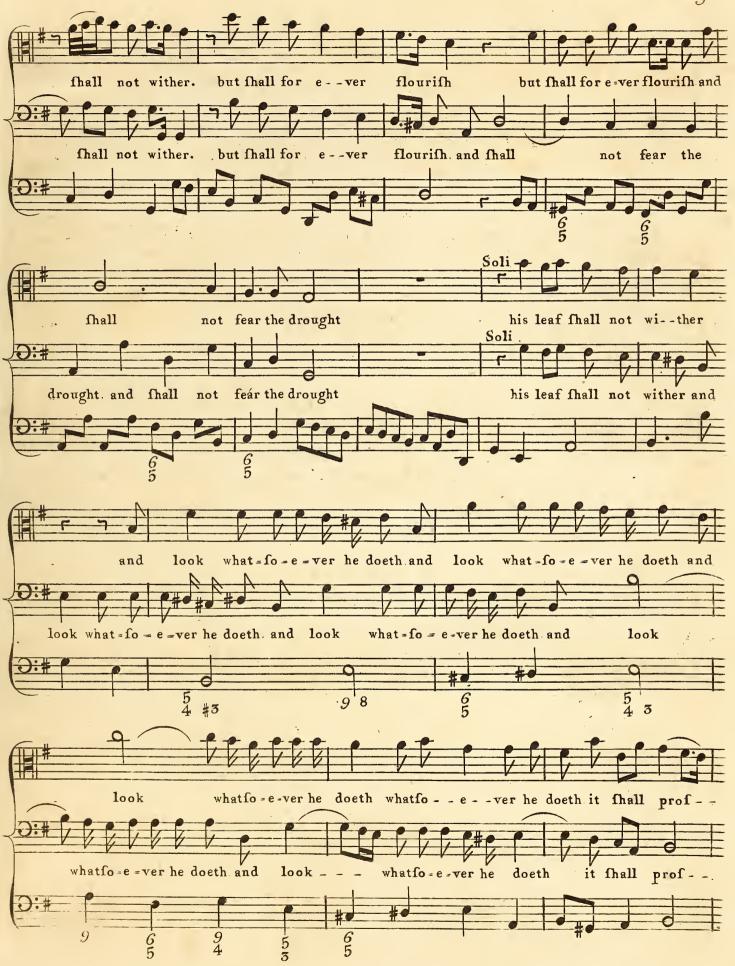




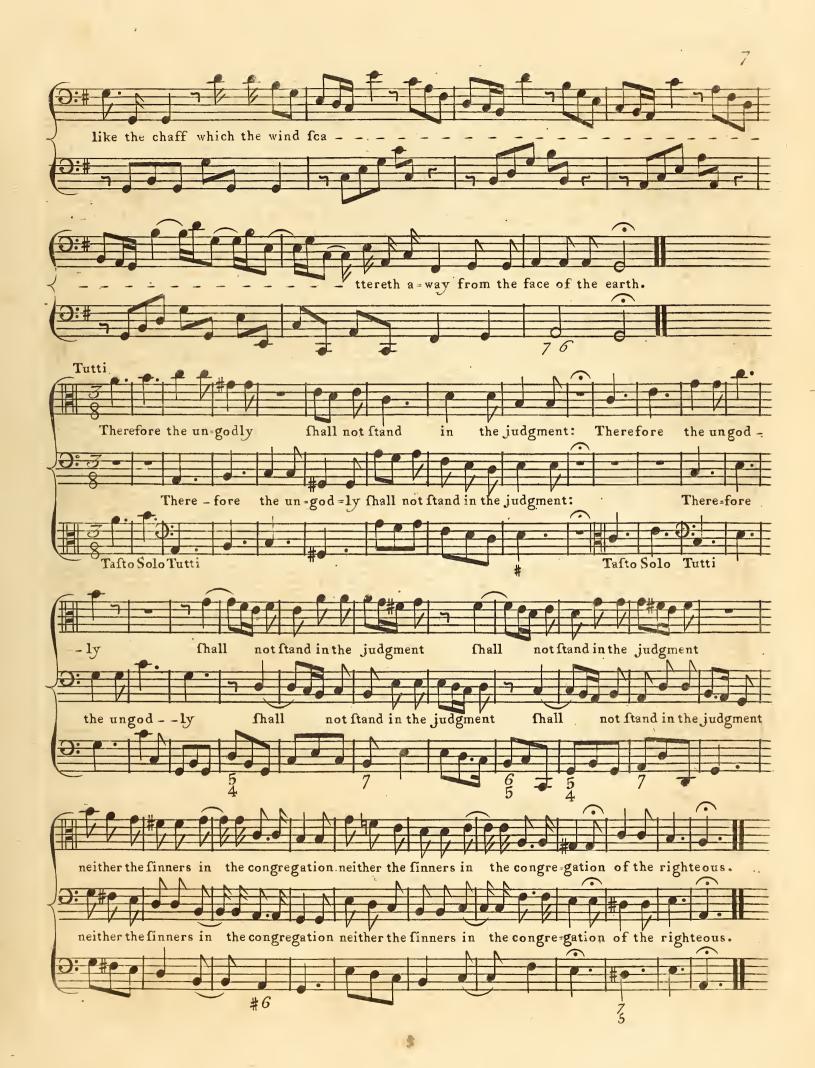


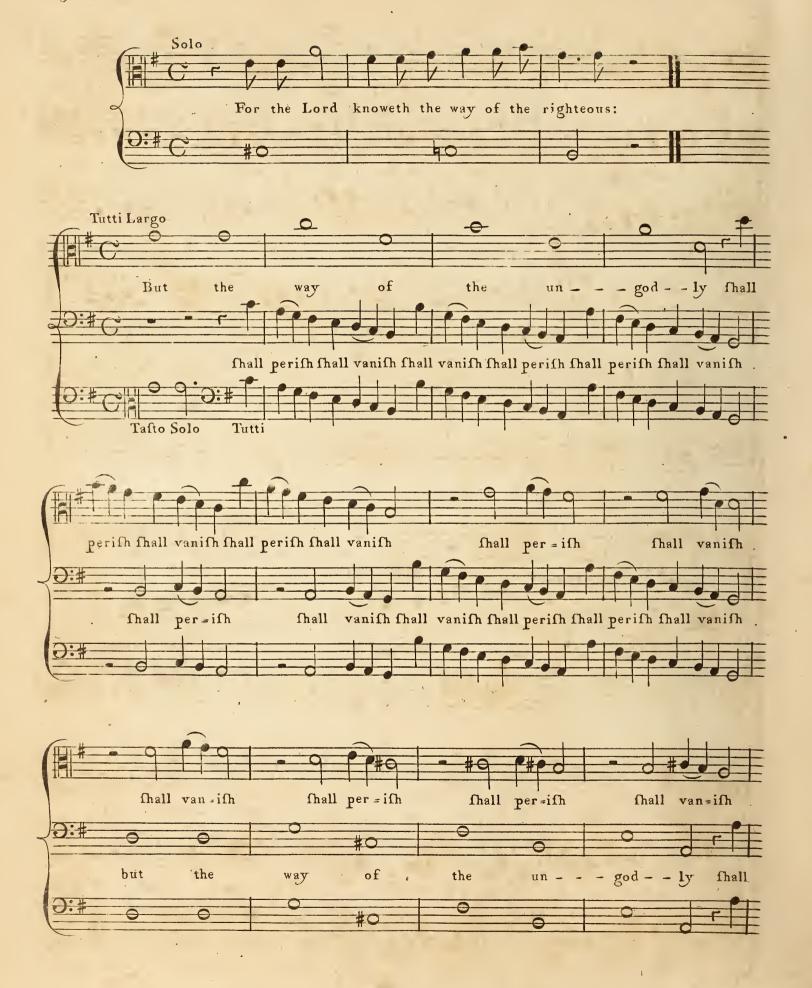


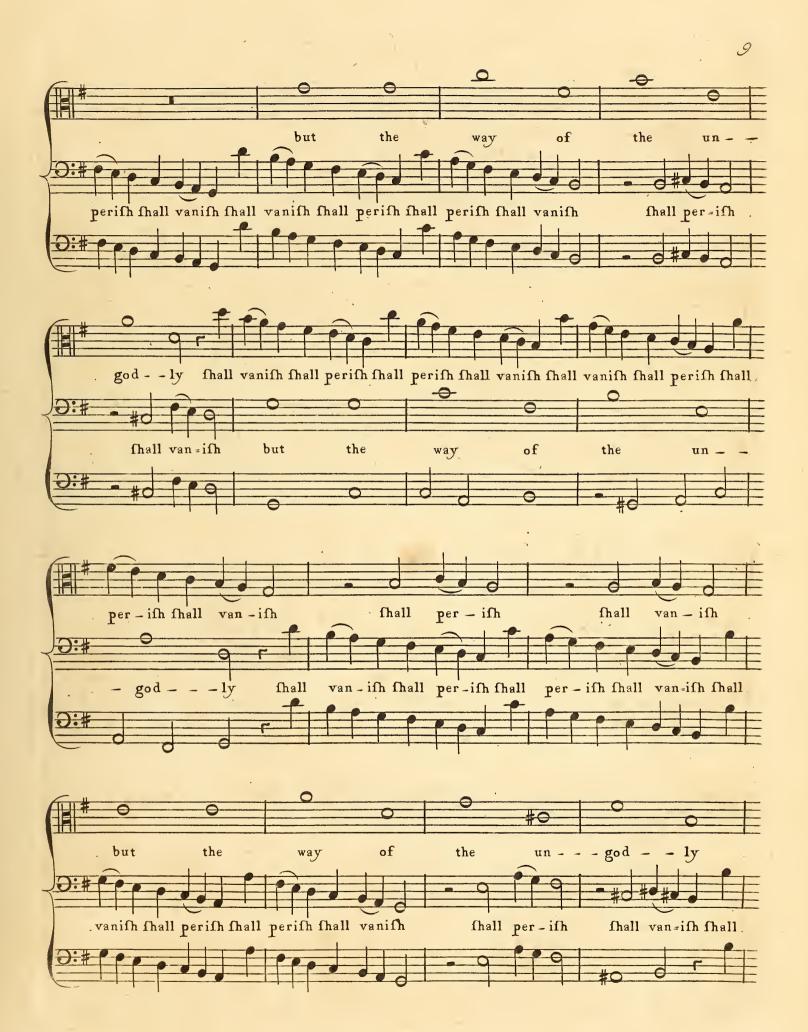


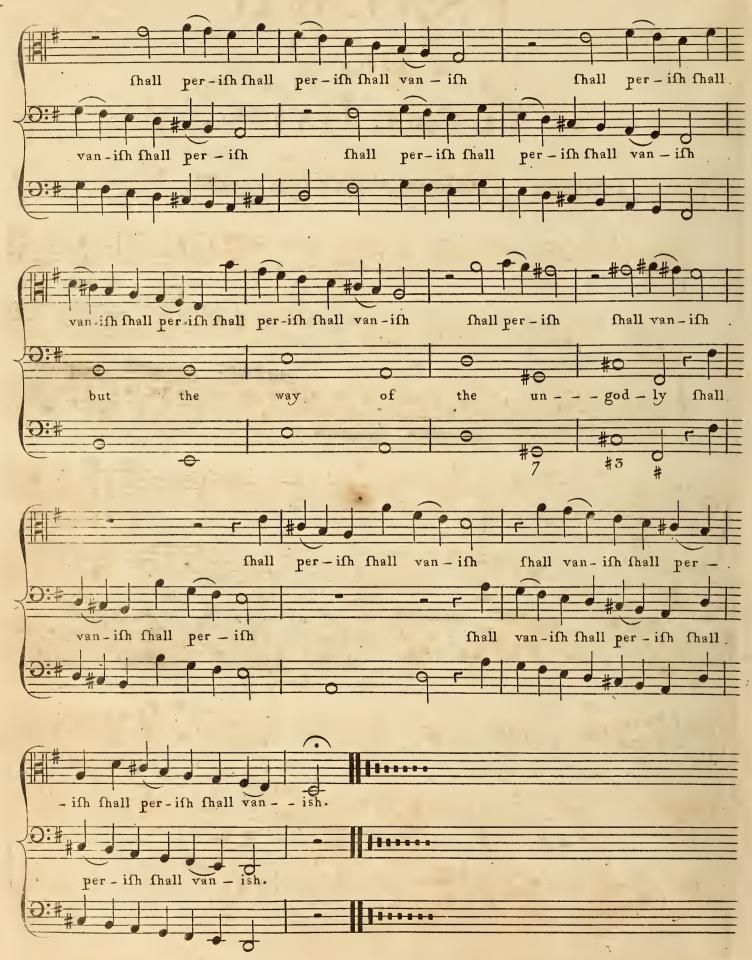










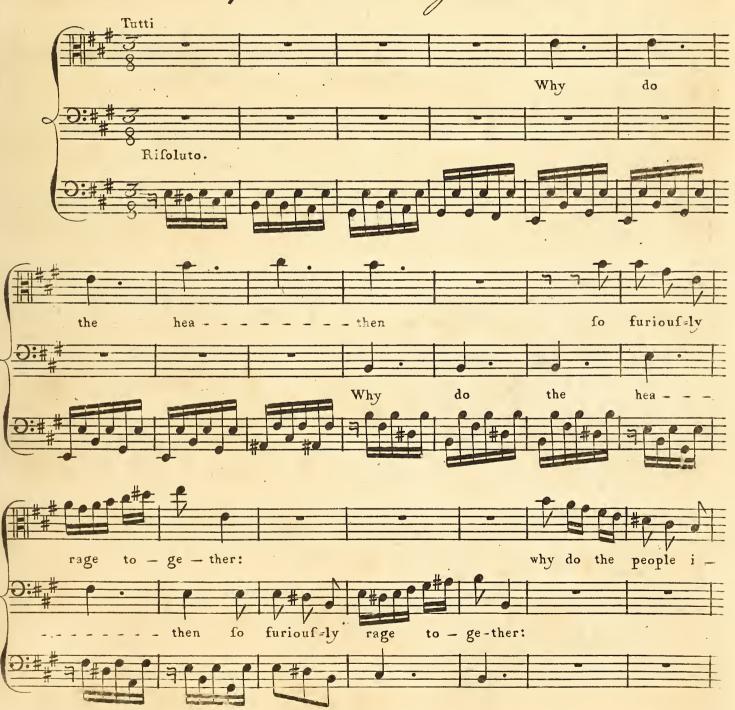


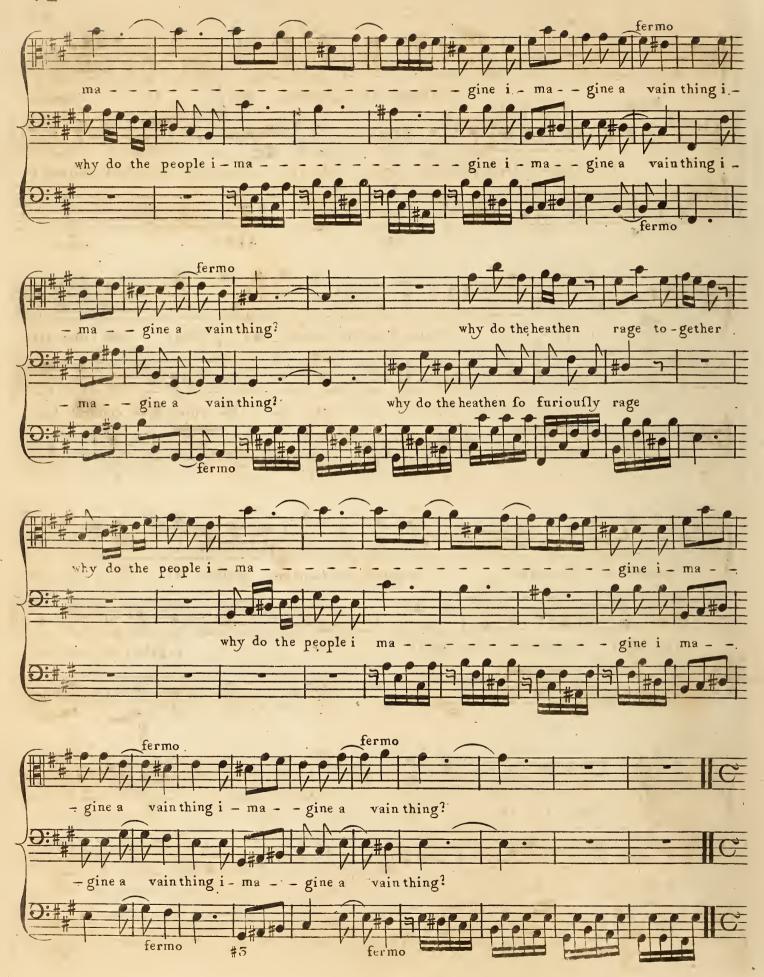
# PSALM II

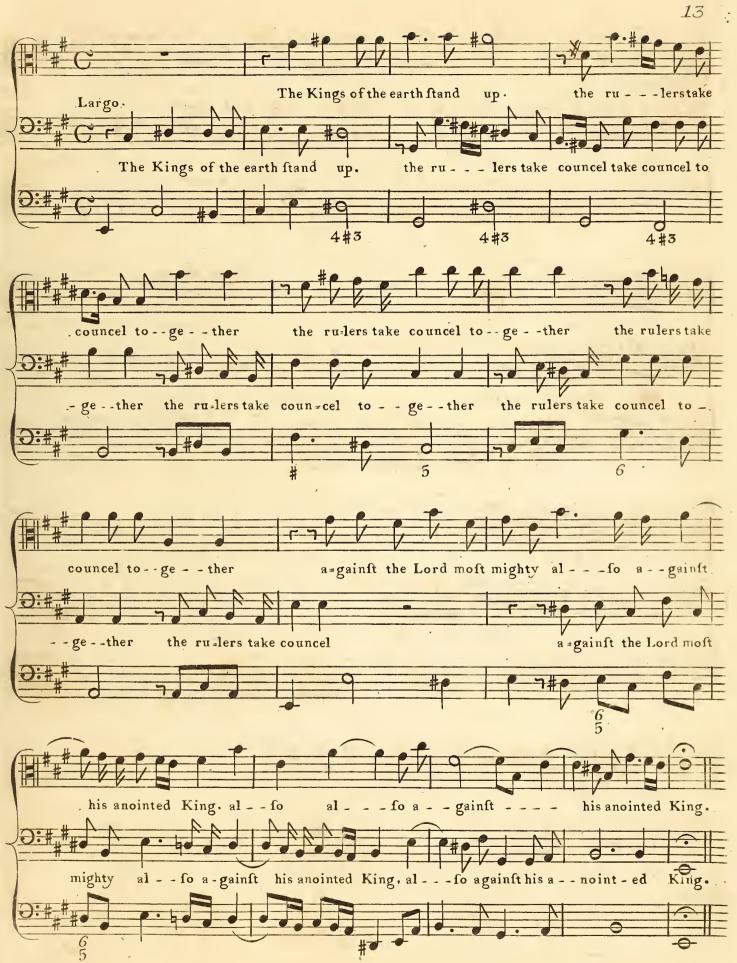
## a Due

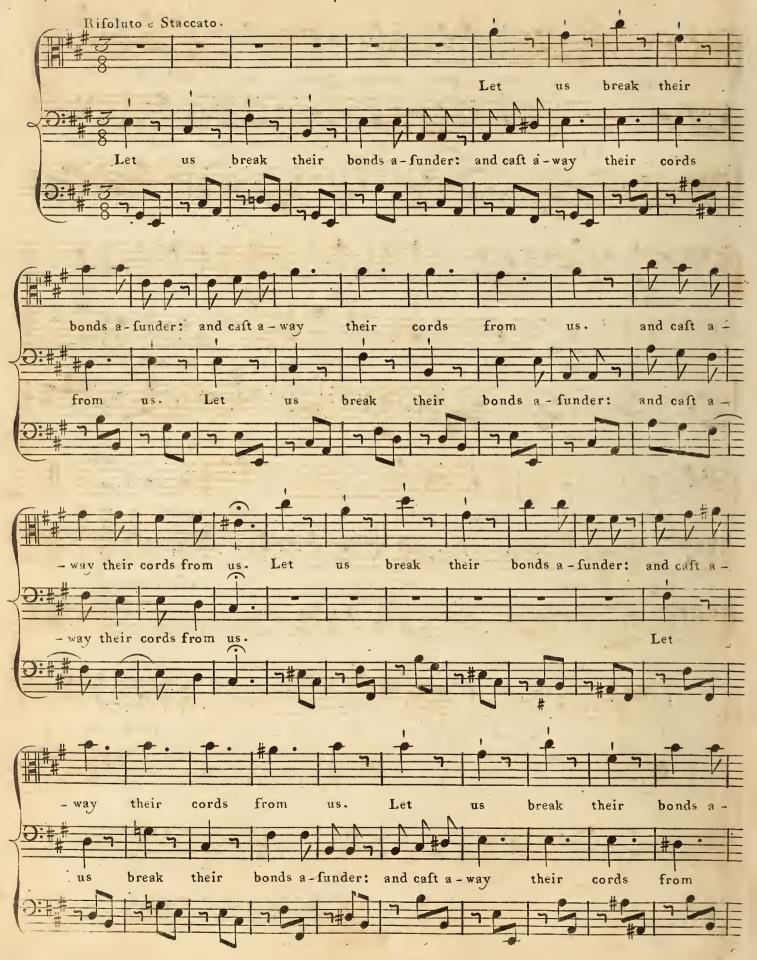
## ALTO, E BASSO.

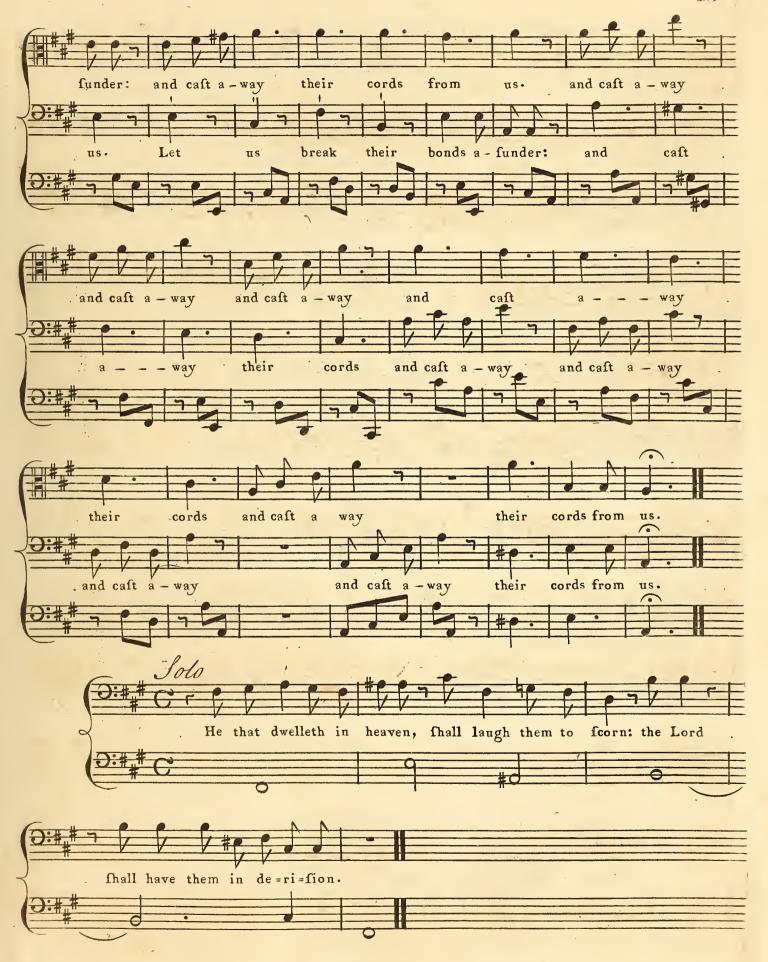
Quare fremuerunt gentes &c.

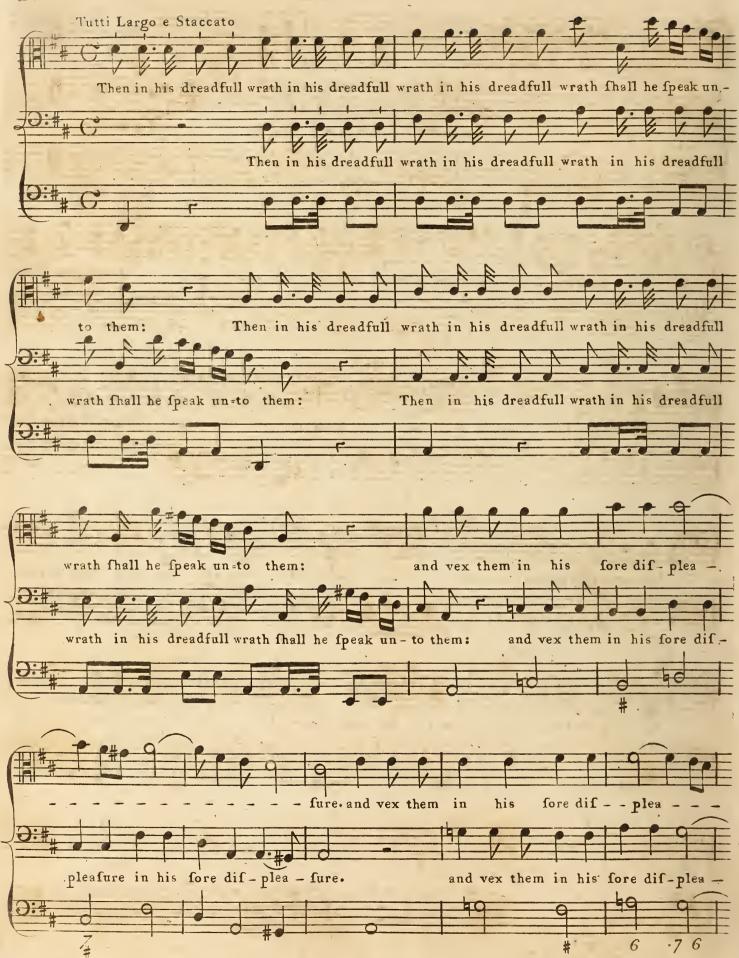


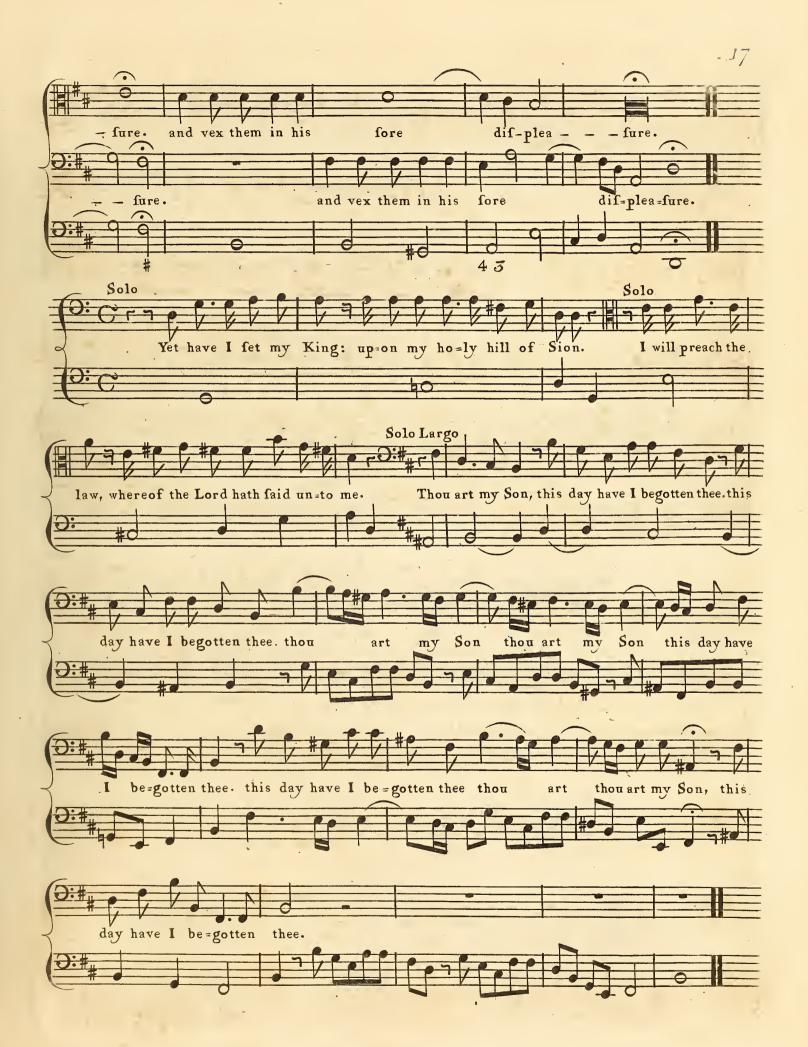




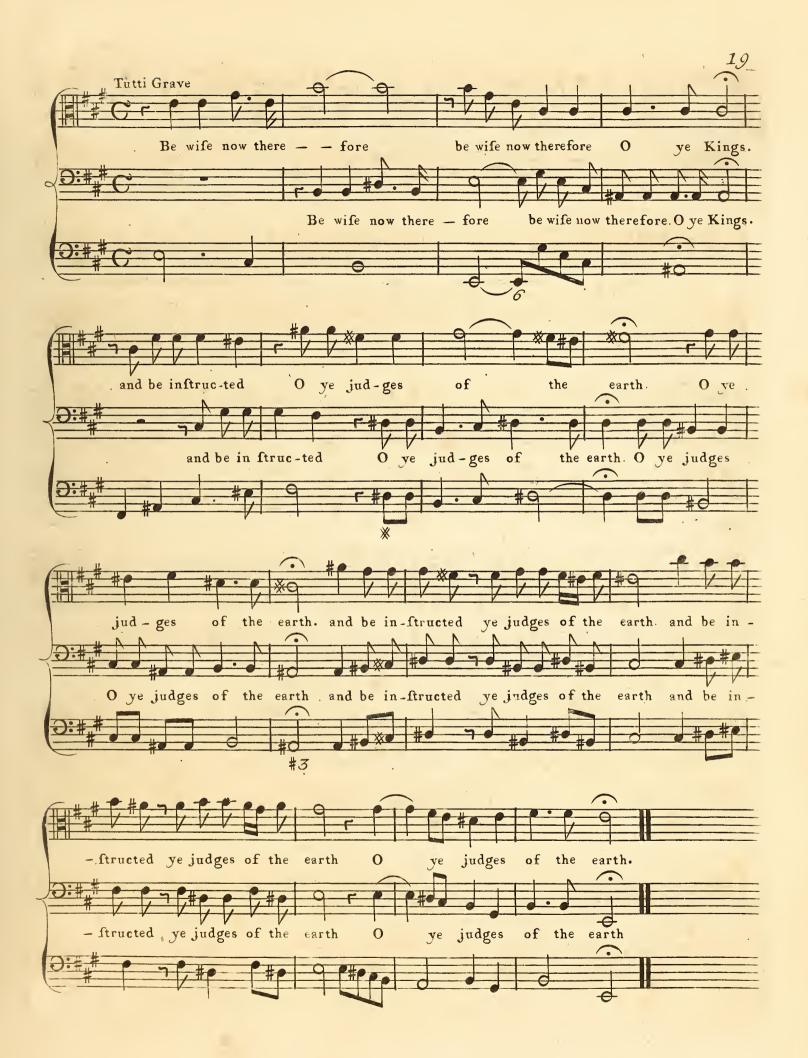


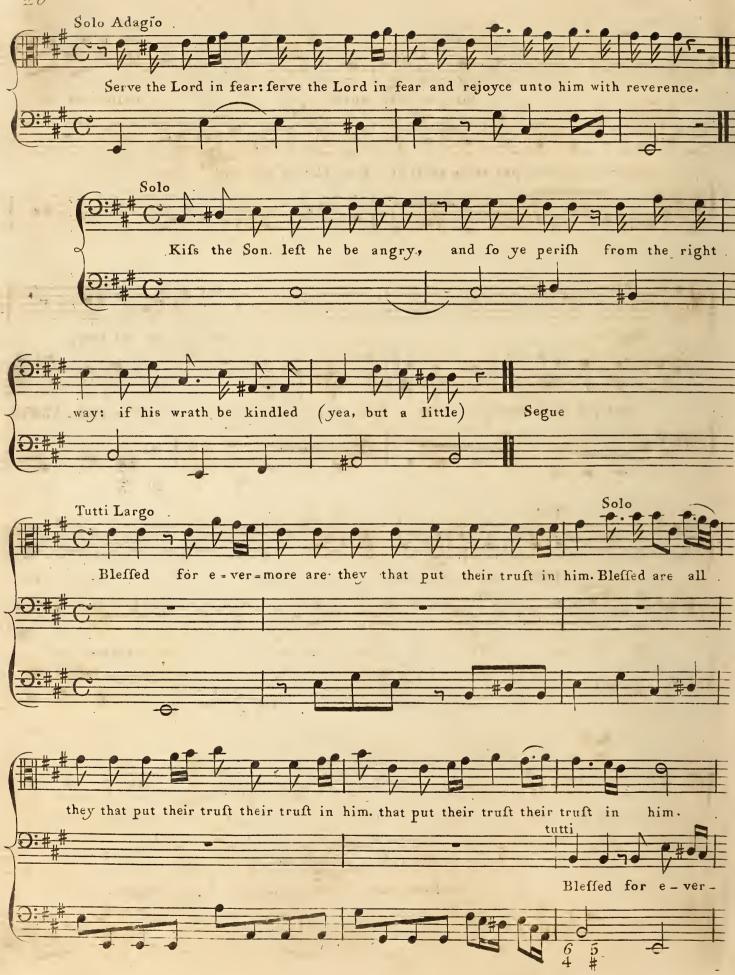


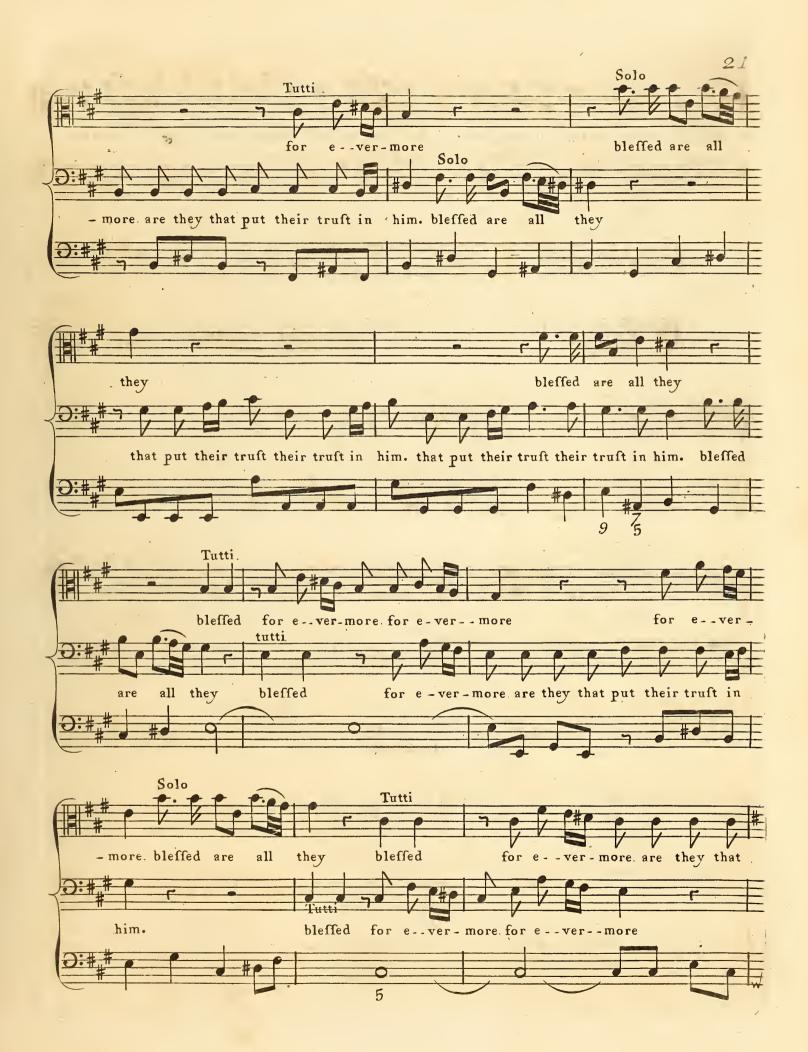


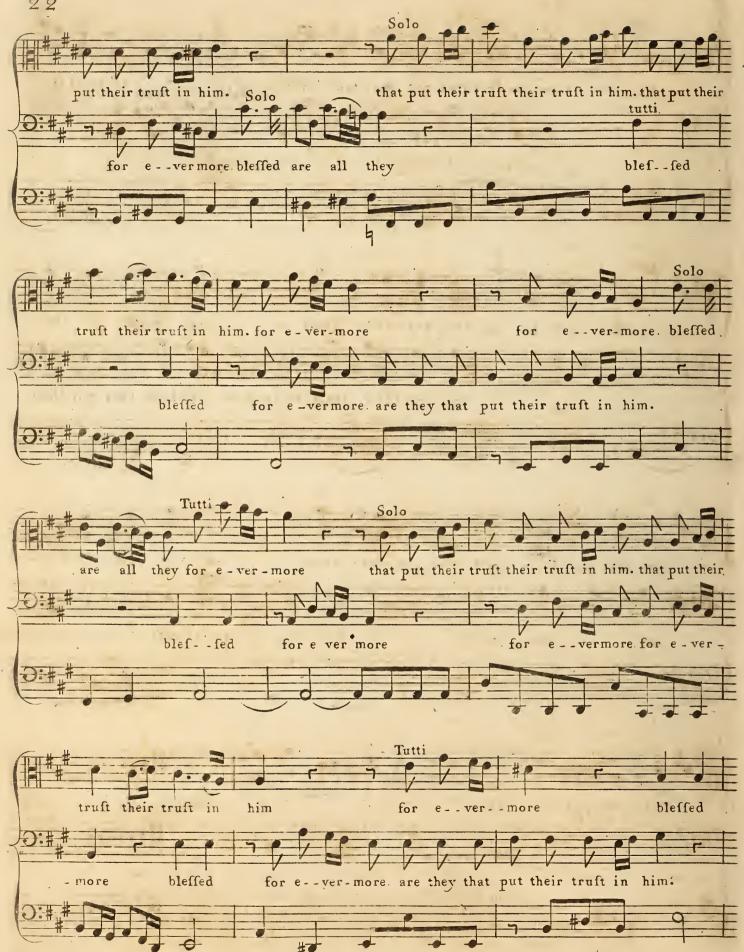












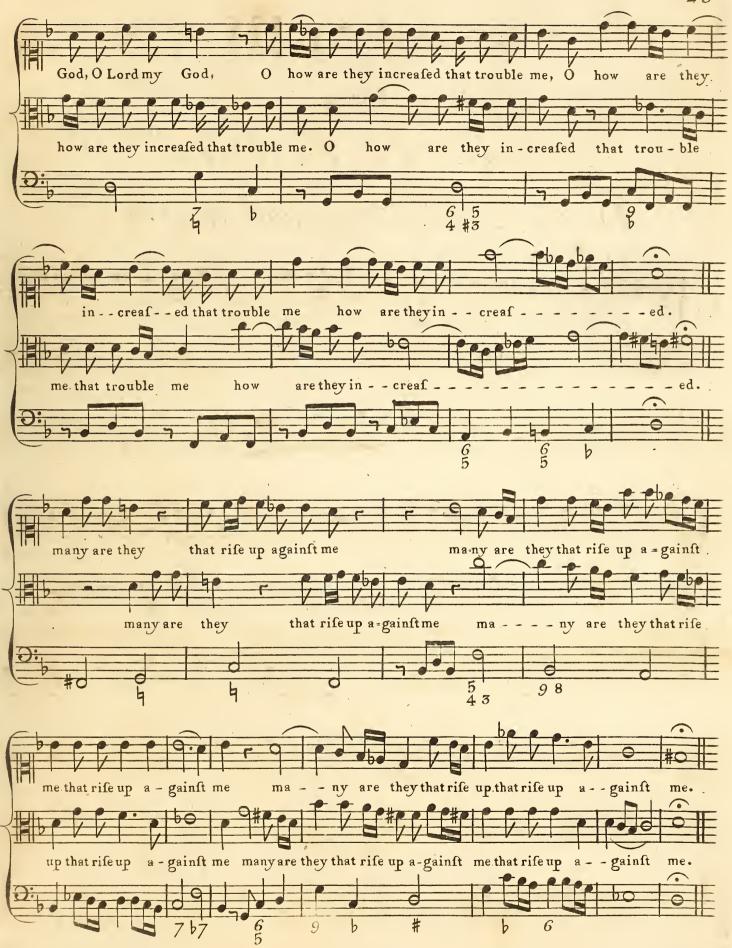


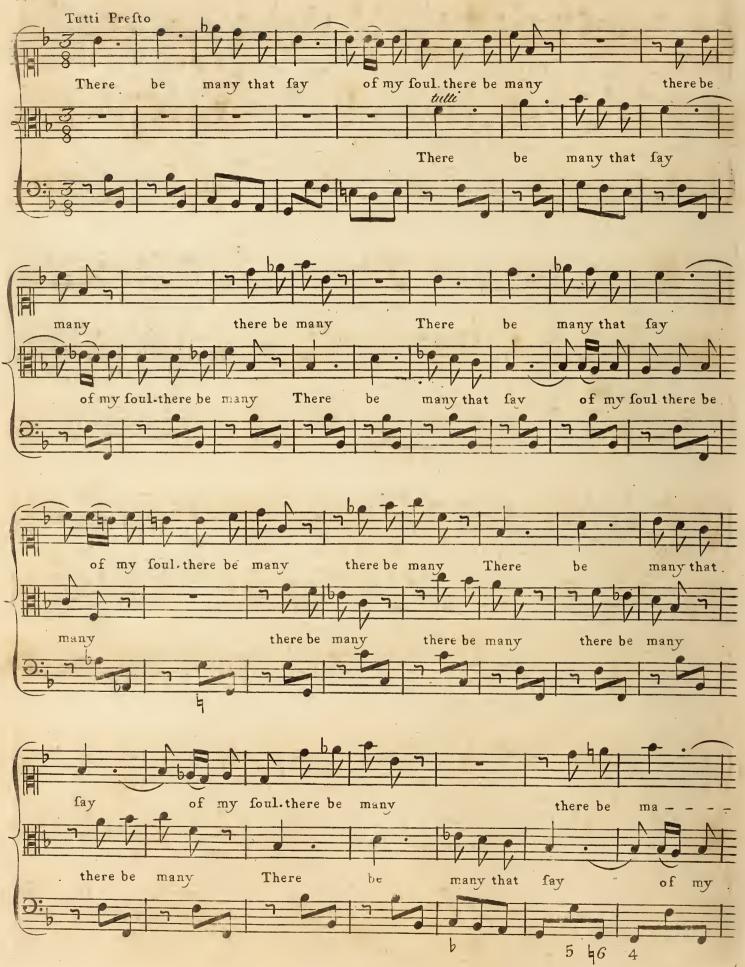
## PSALM III

## A DUE CANTO, E ALTO.

Domine quid multiplicati sunt &c.



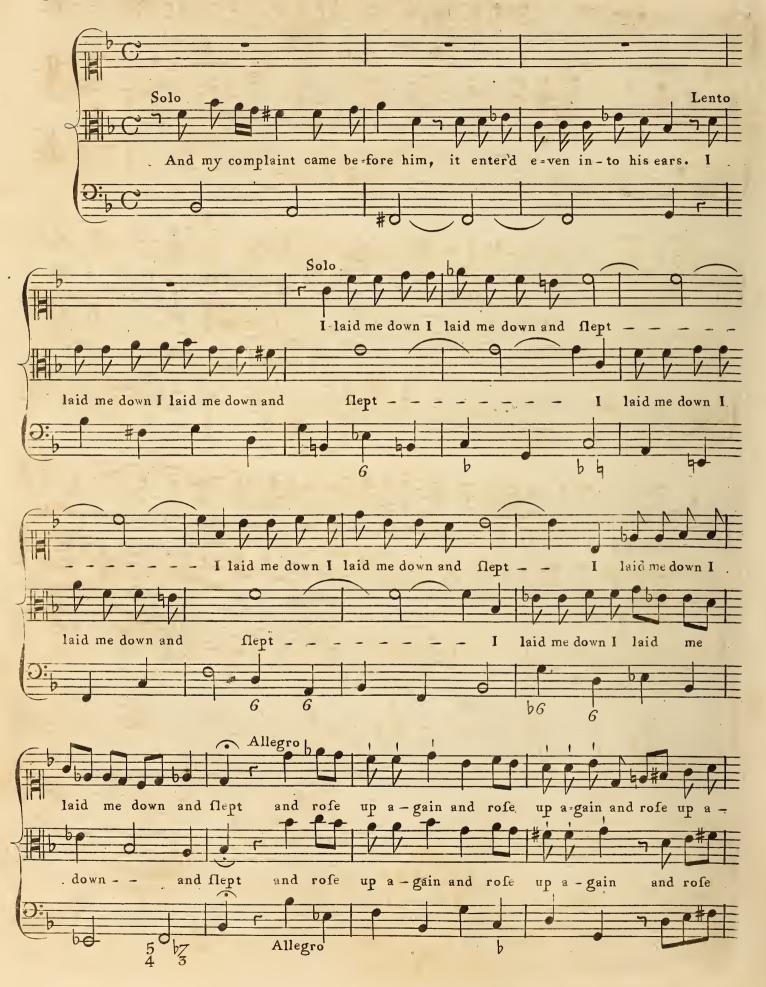


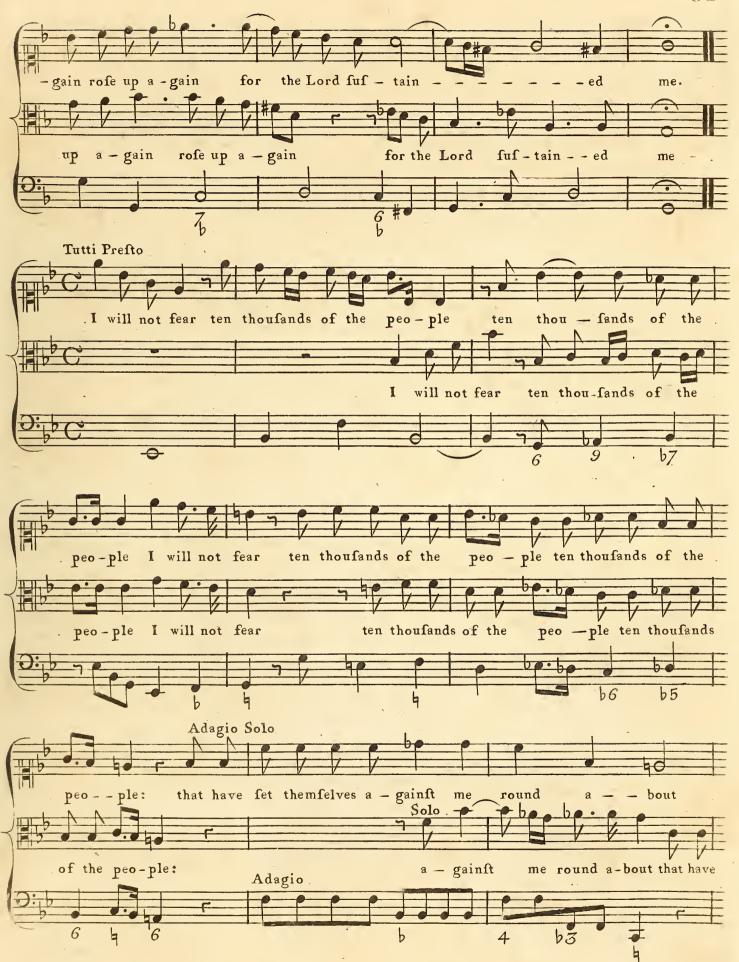


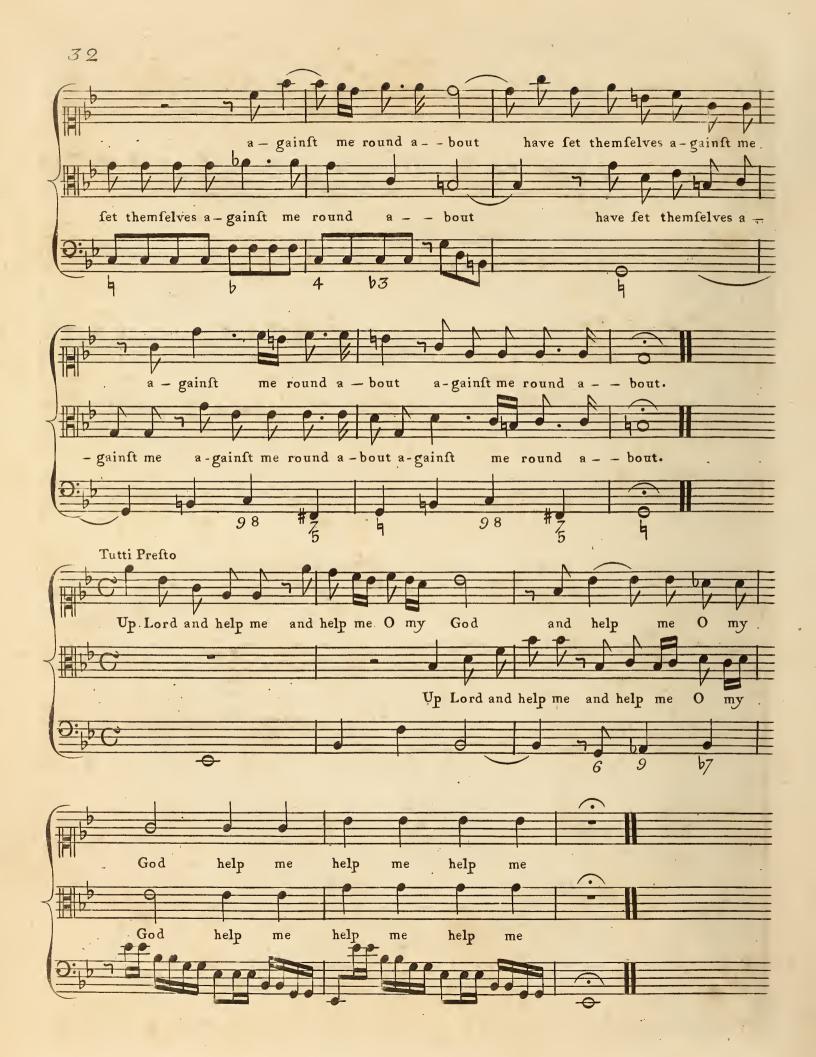


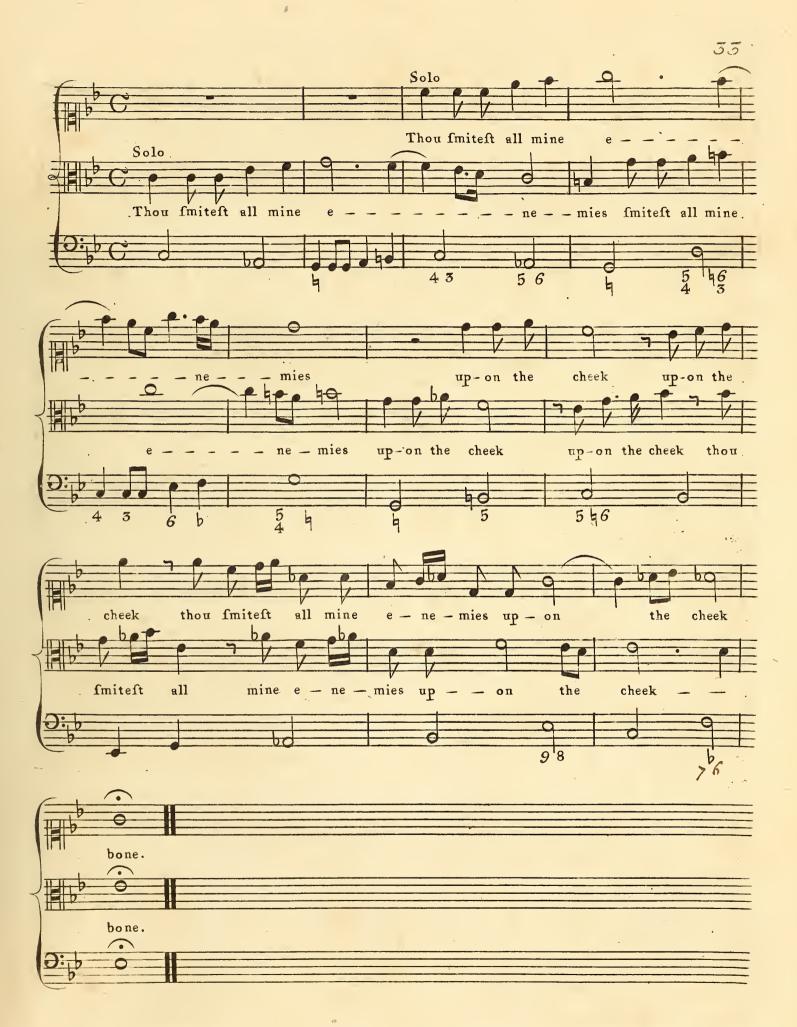






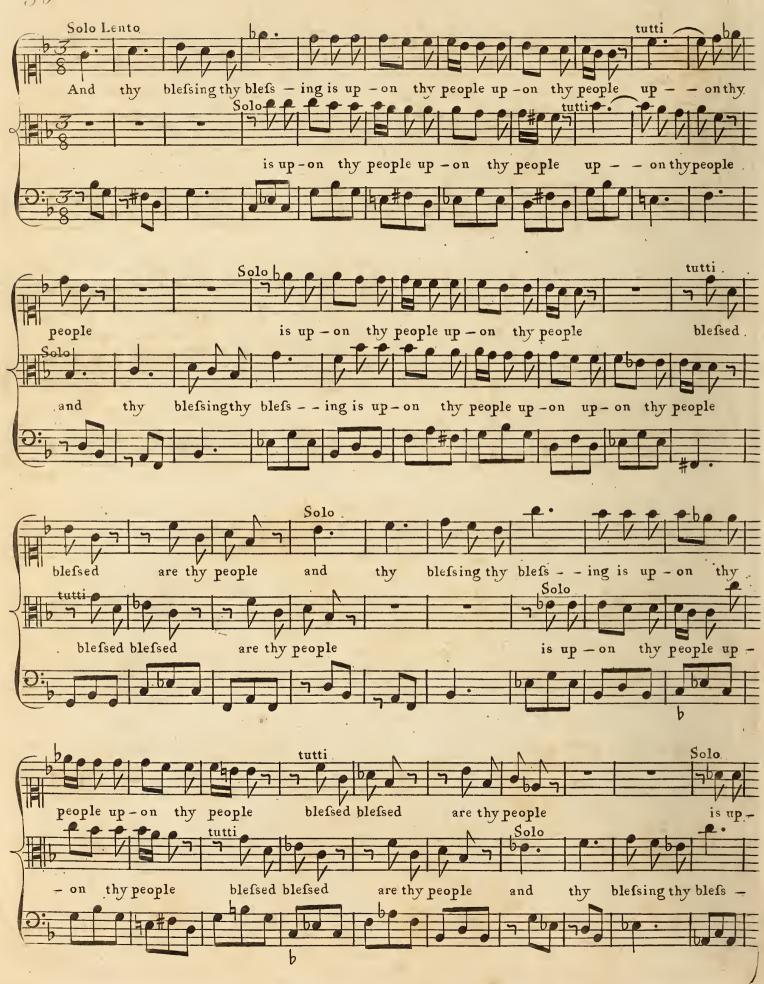




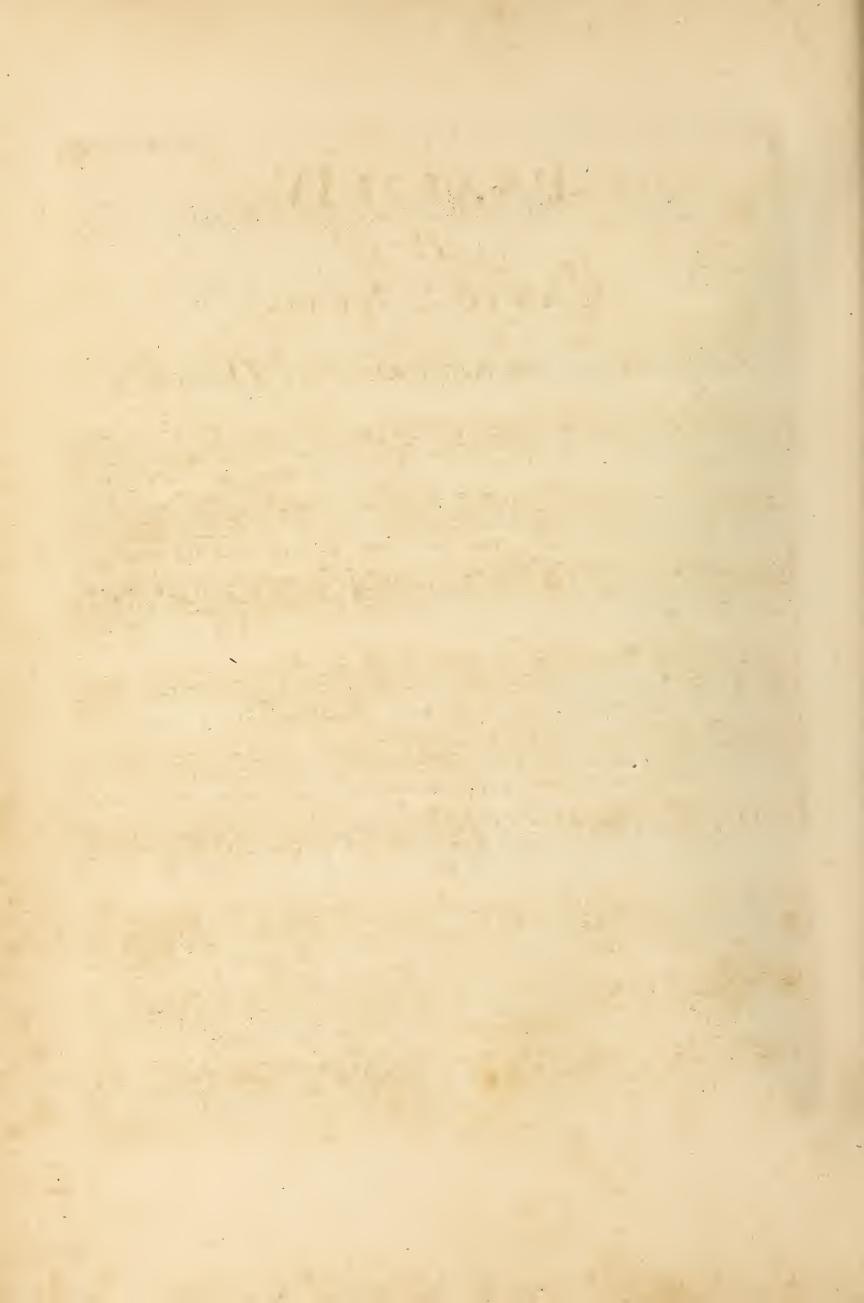










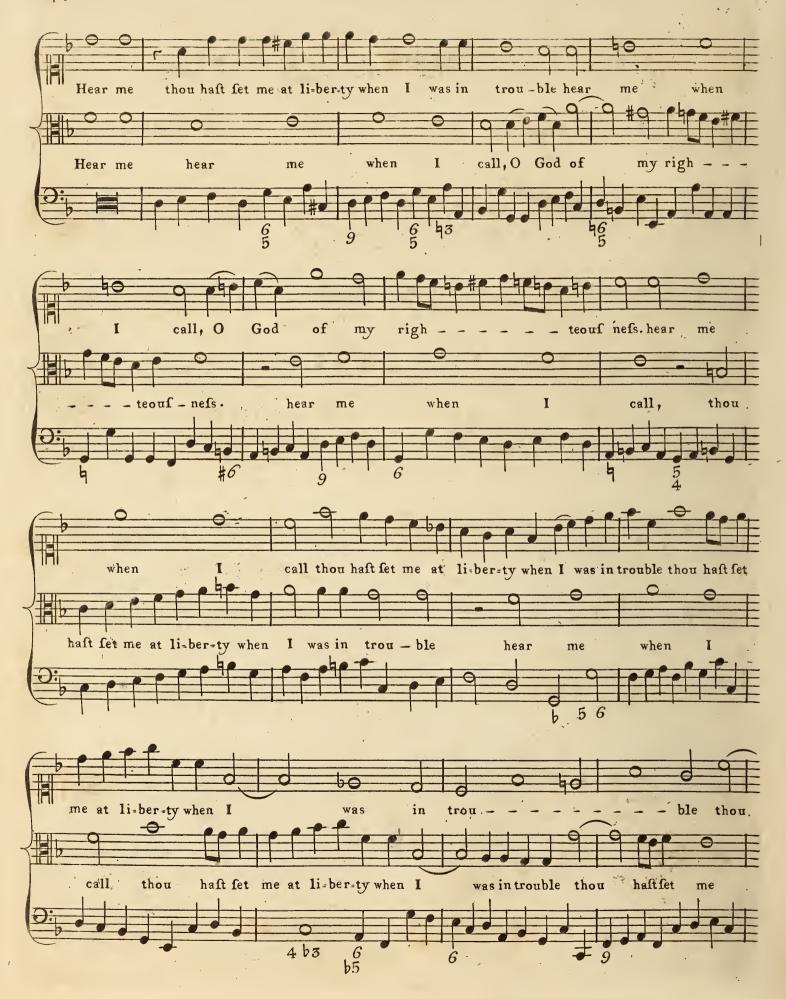


## PSALM IV A DUE

## CANTO, E ALTO.

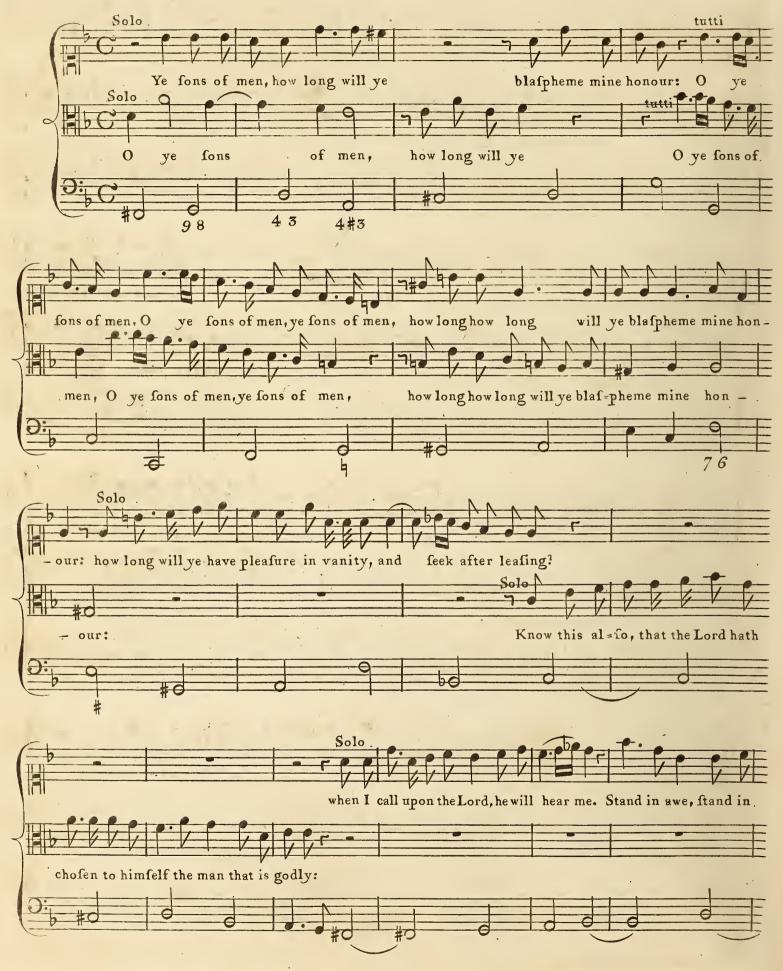
Cum invocarem exaudivit me Deus &c.

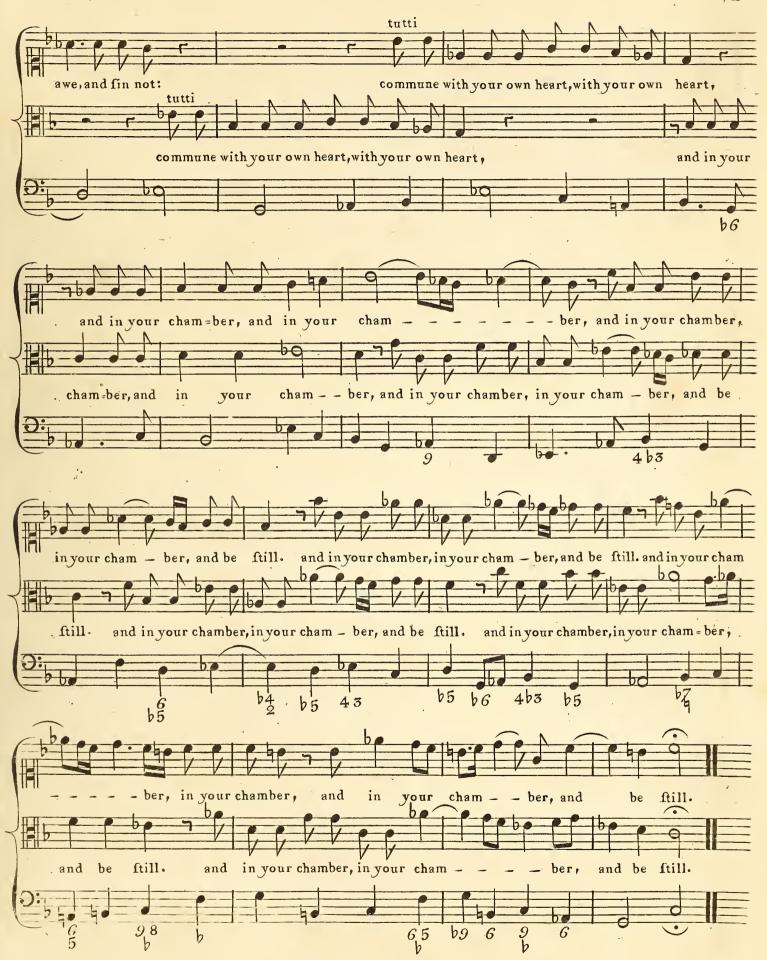


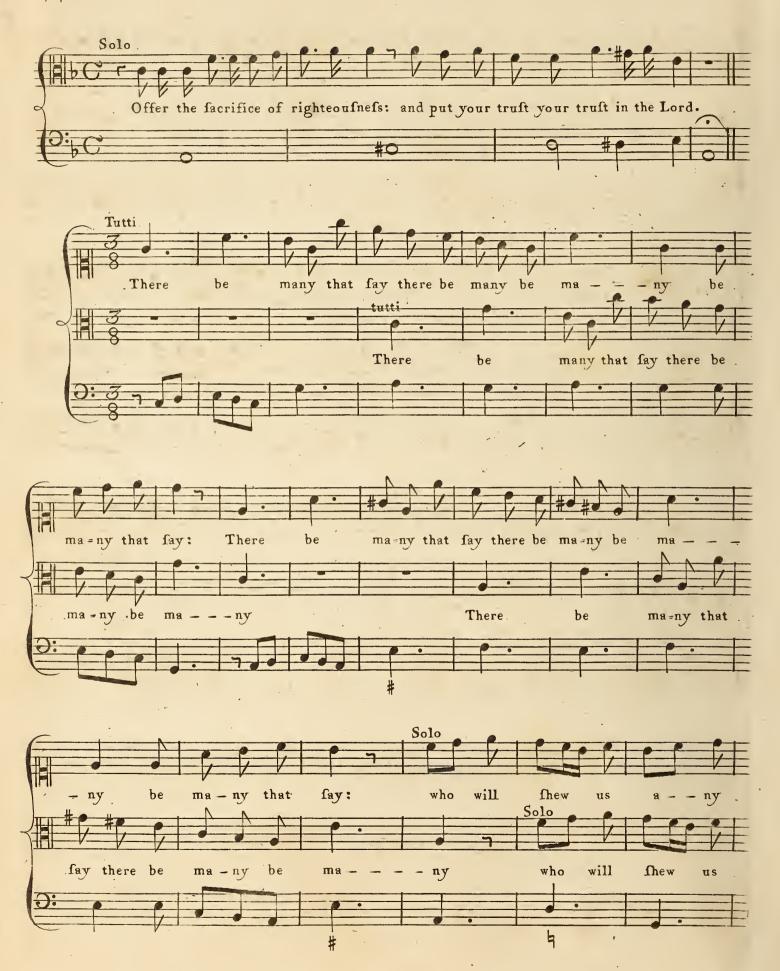


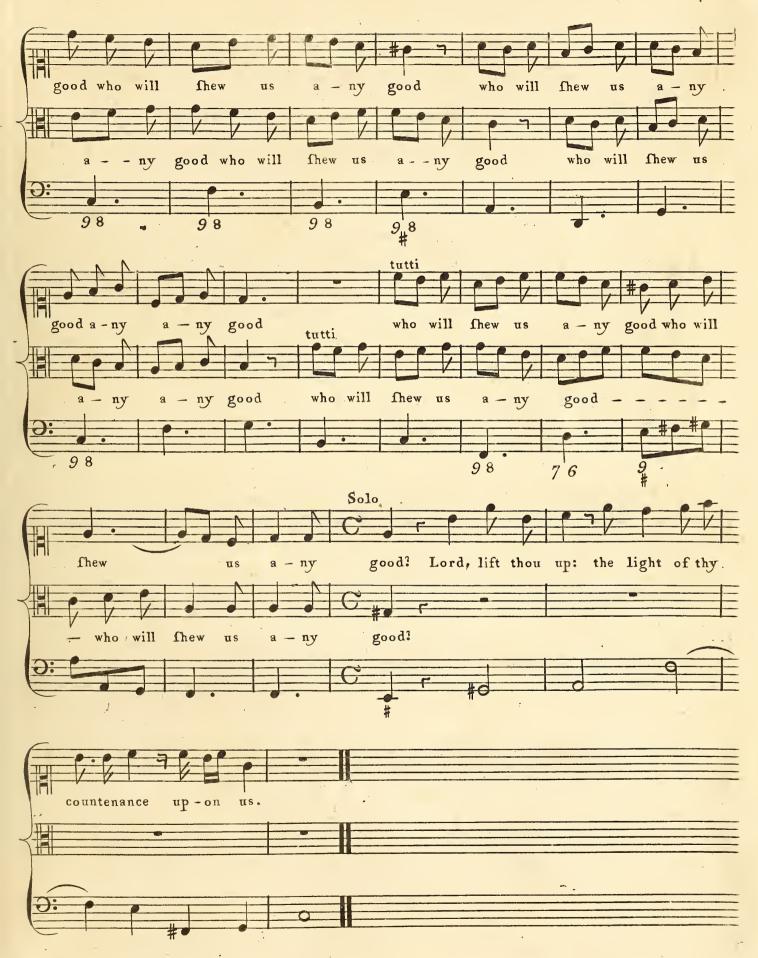


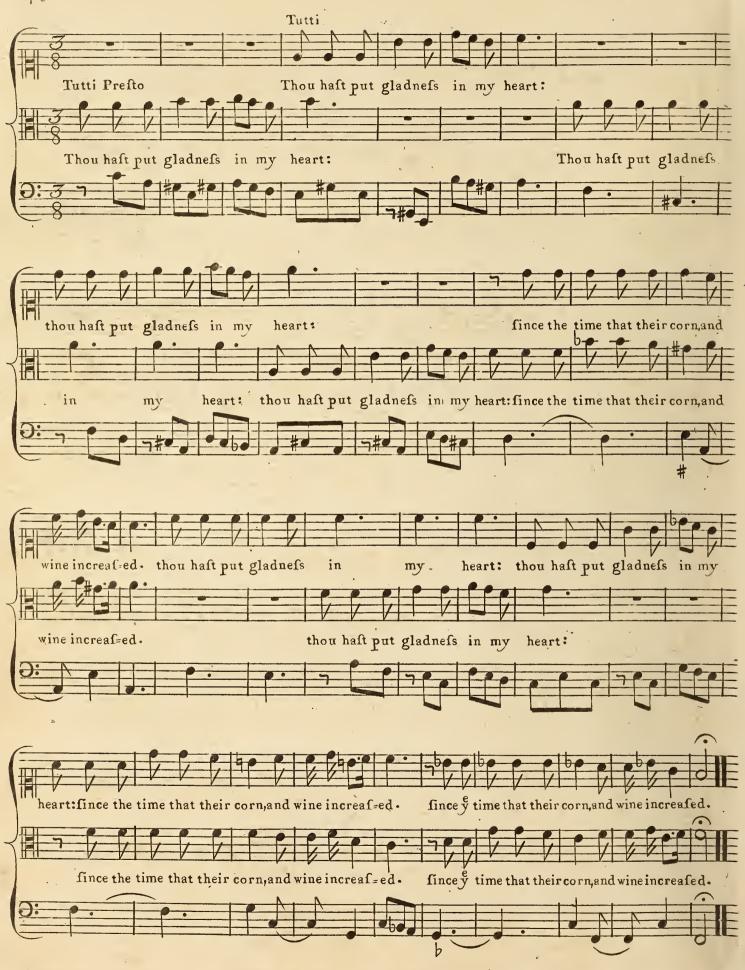
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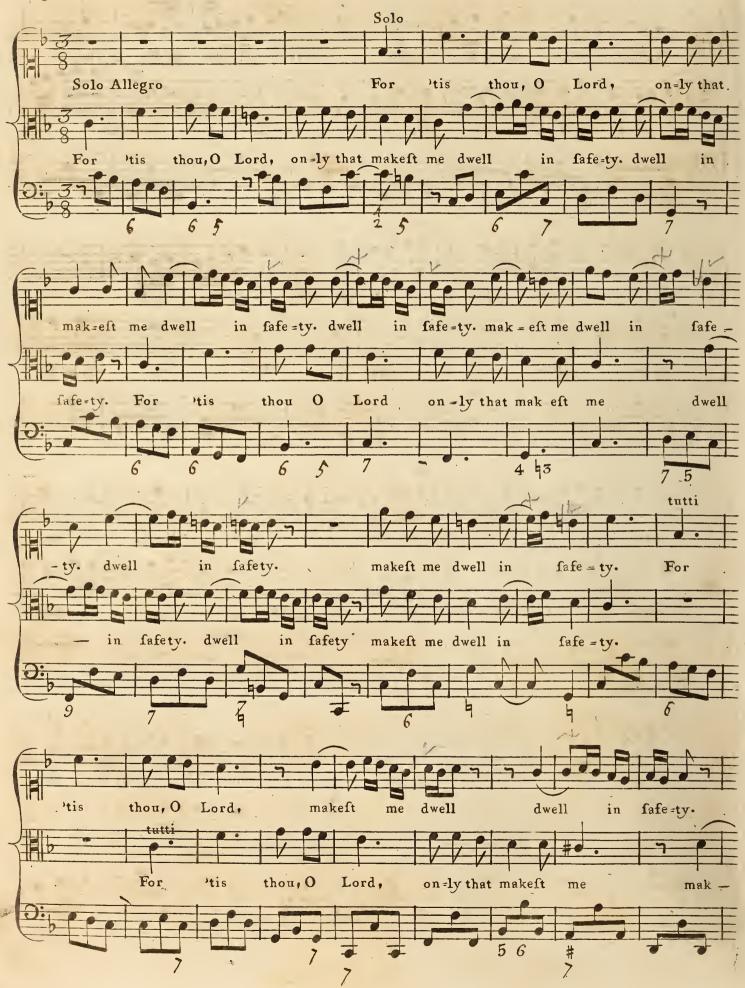




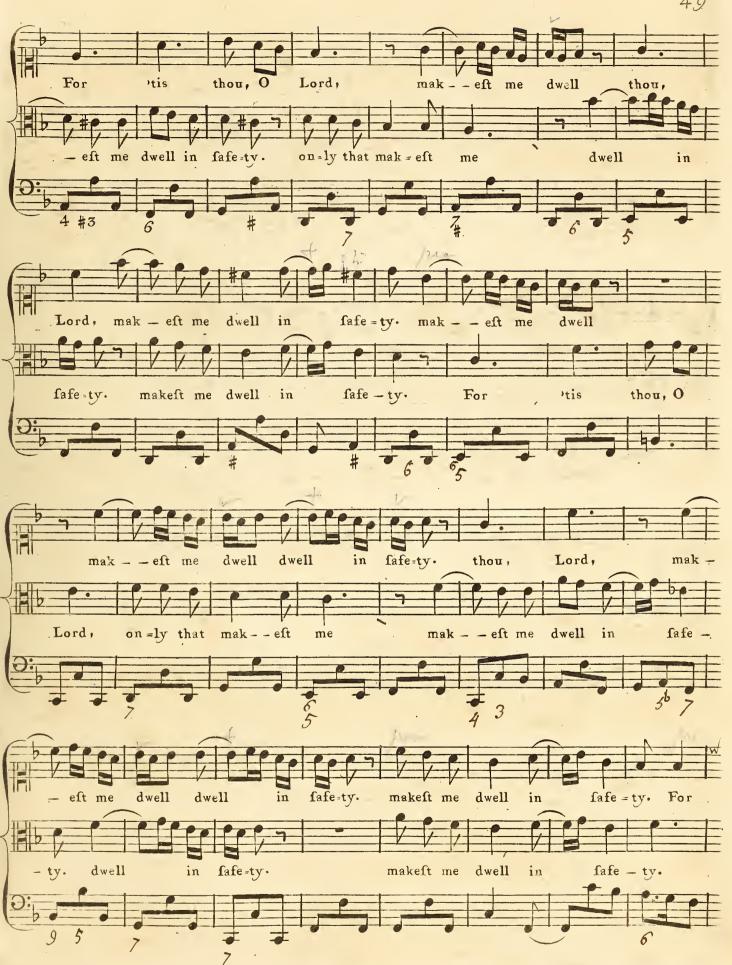


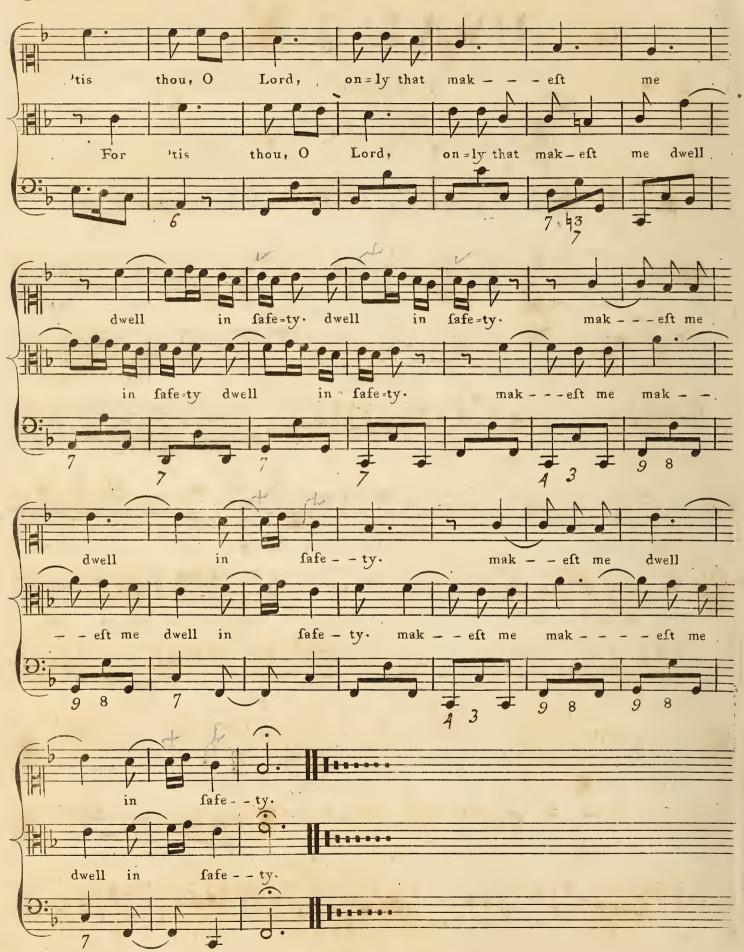












## PSALM V

# ALTO, EBASSO.

#### Verba mea auribus percipe Domine &c.

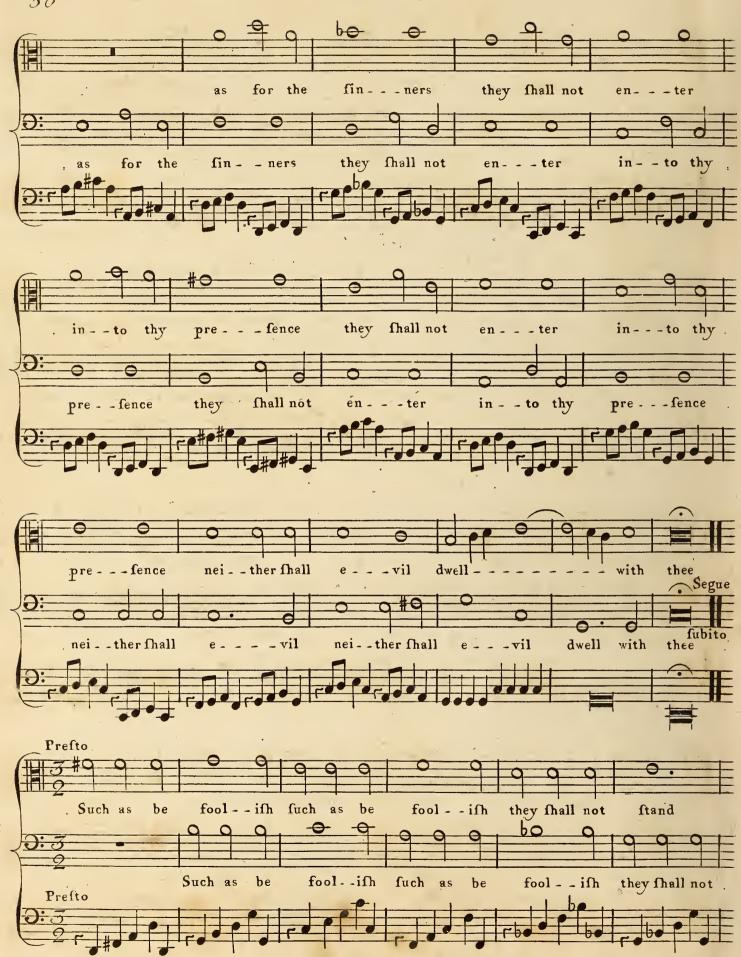


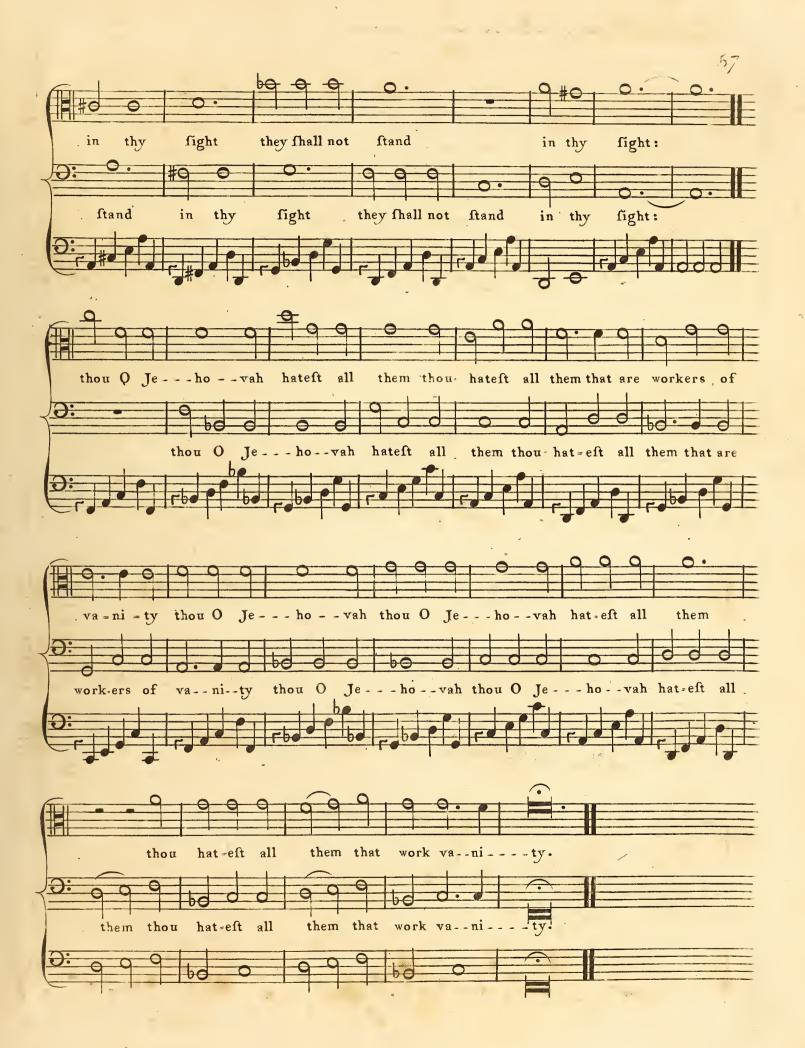






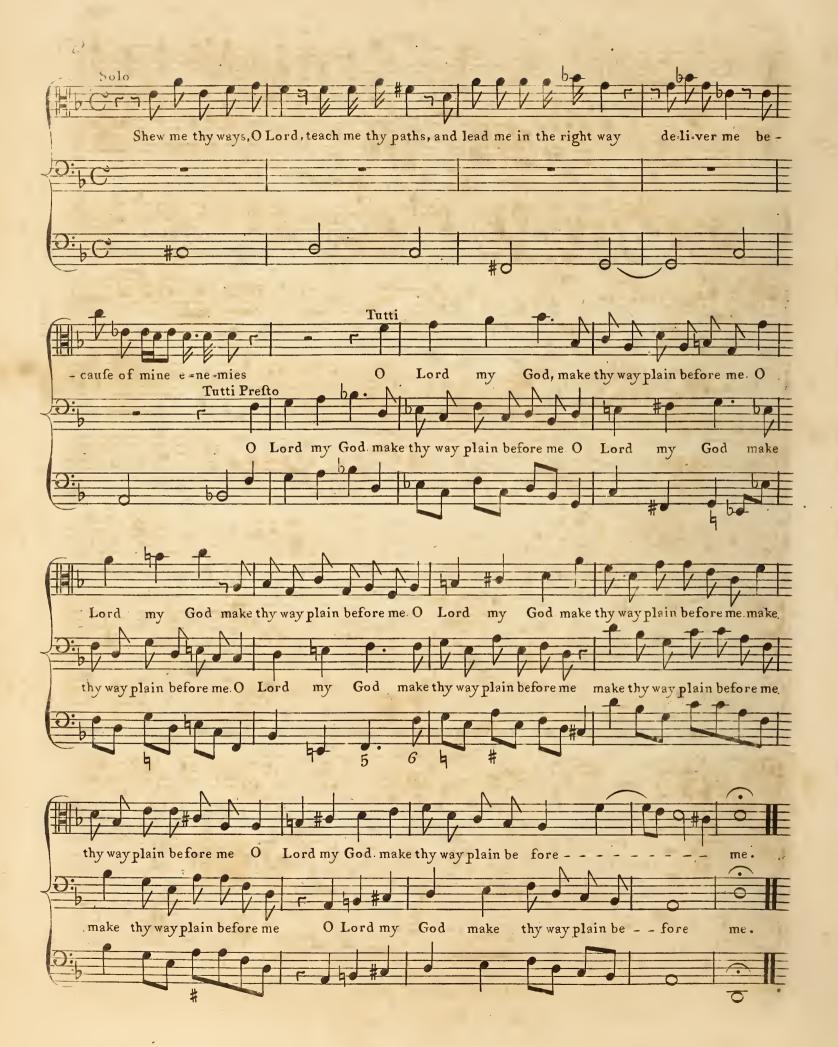


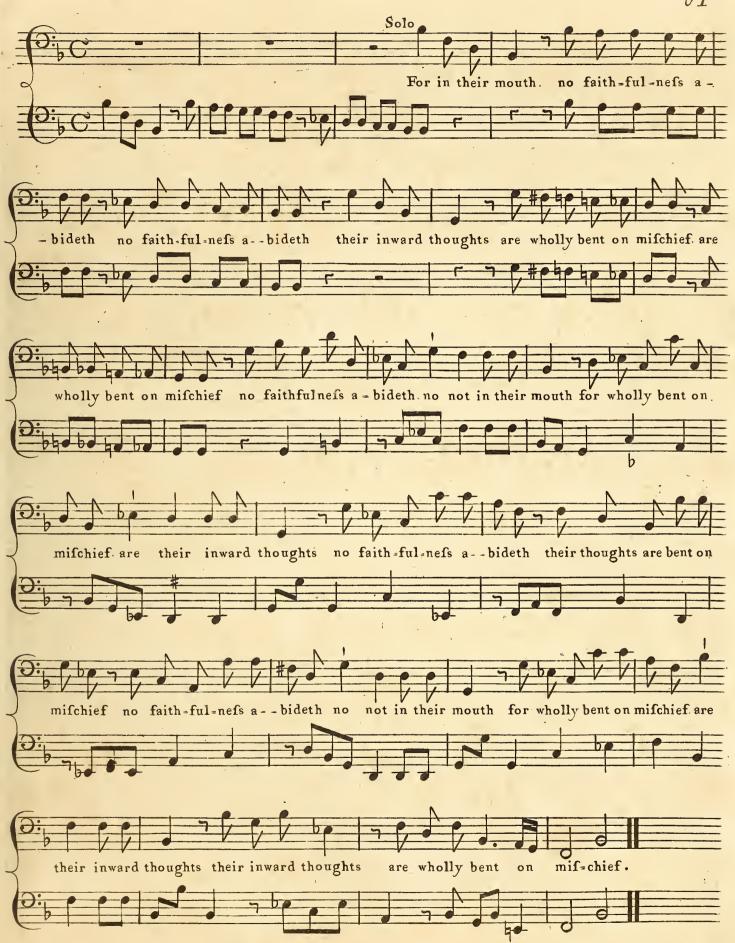


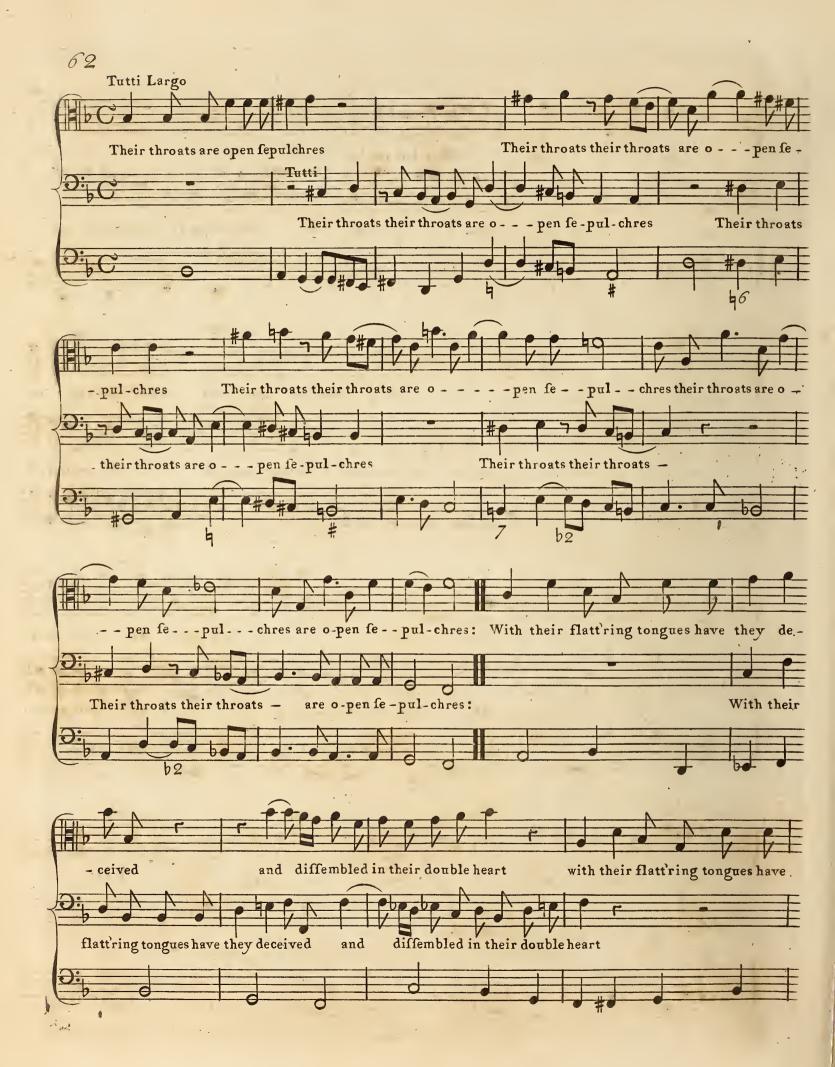




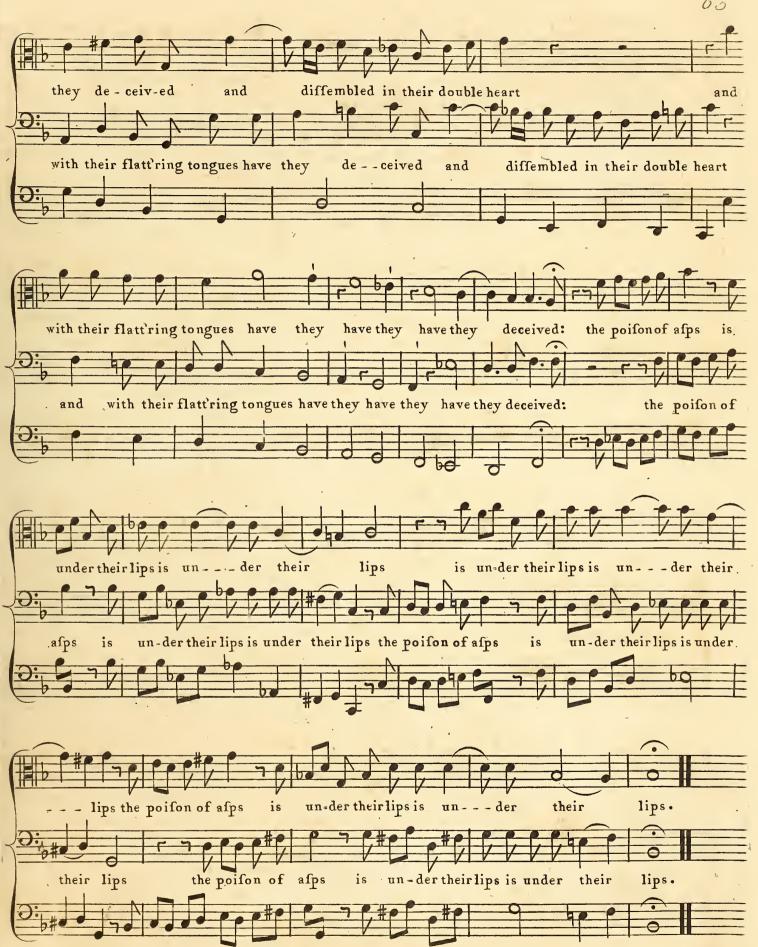
















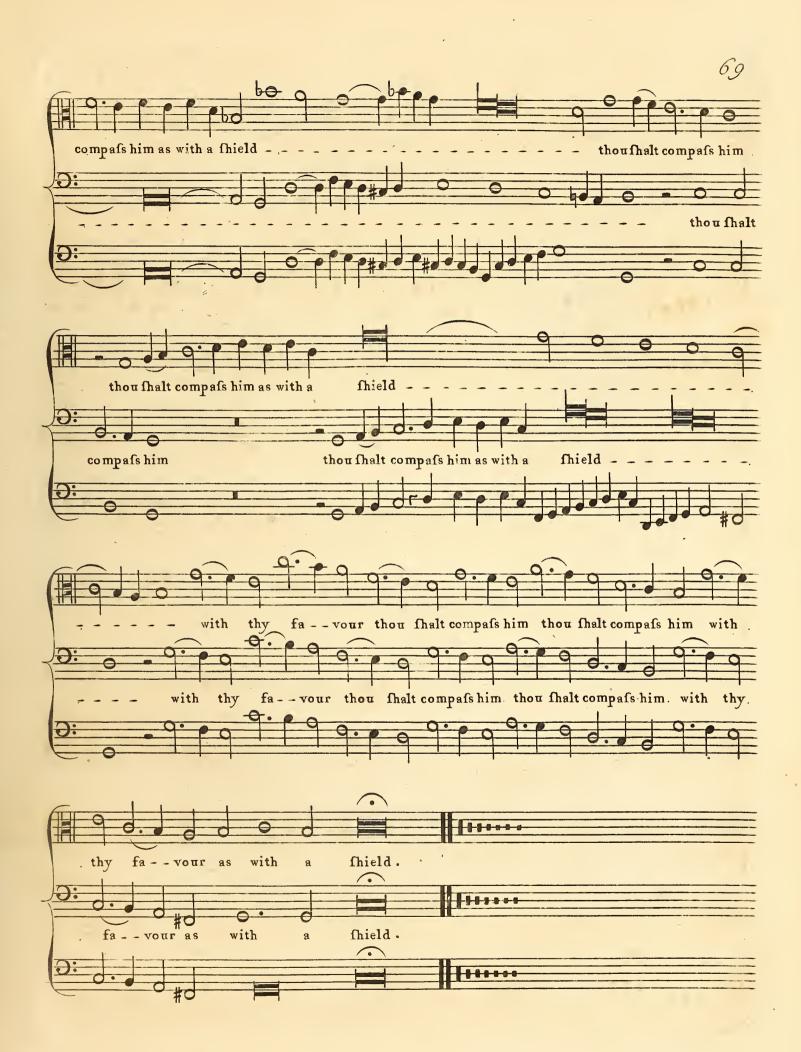


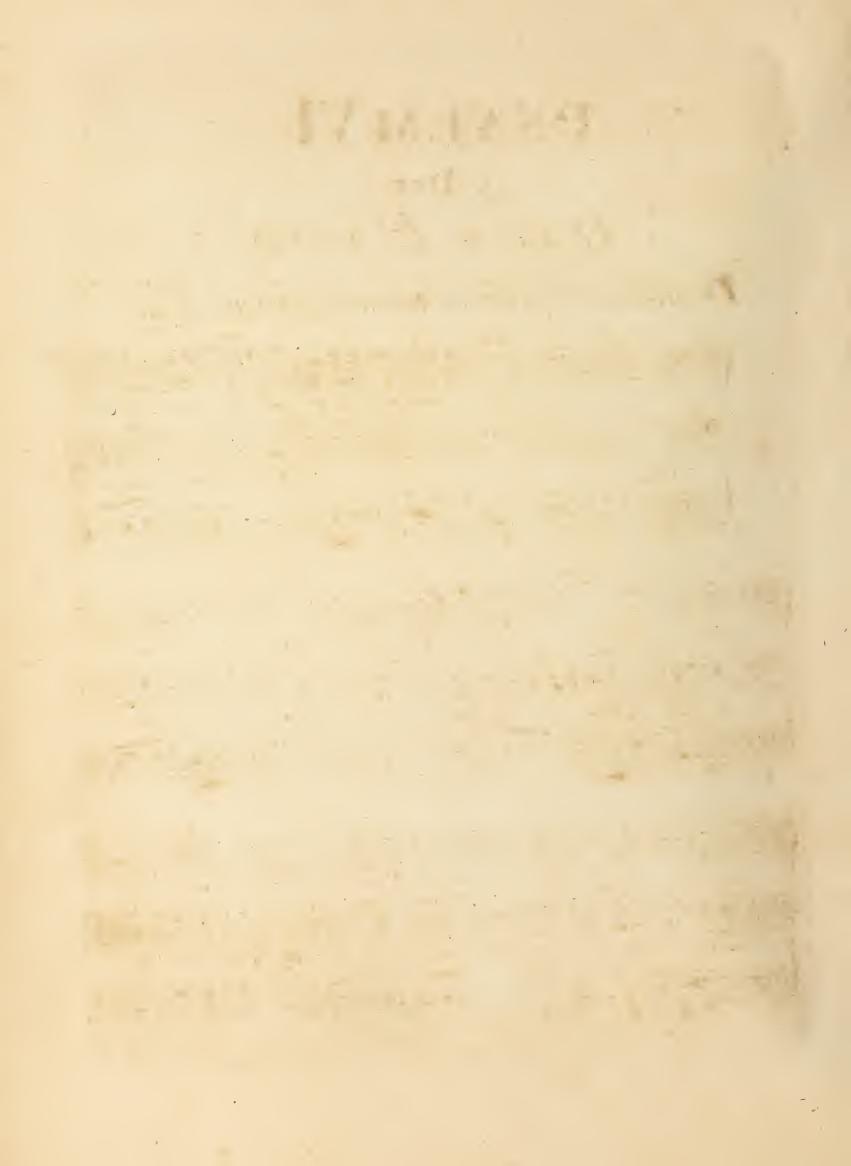








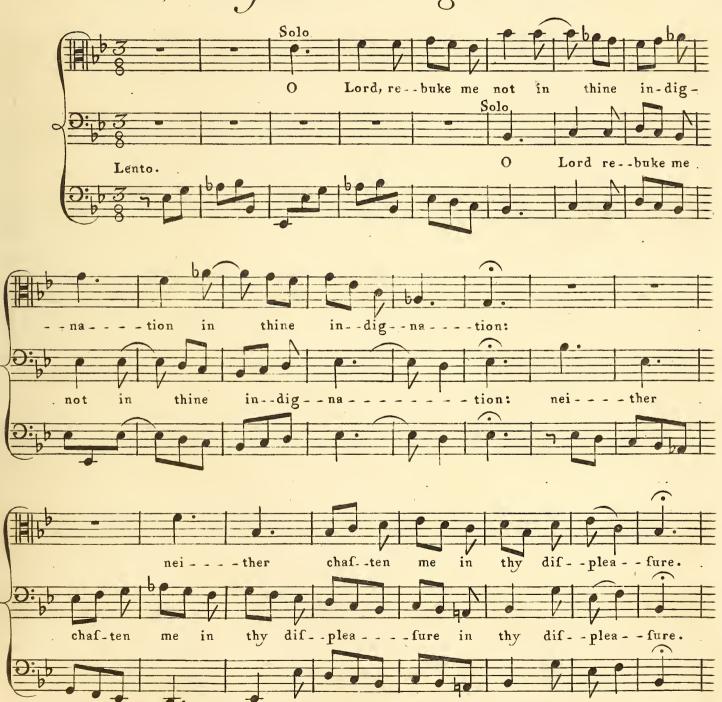




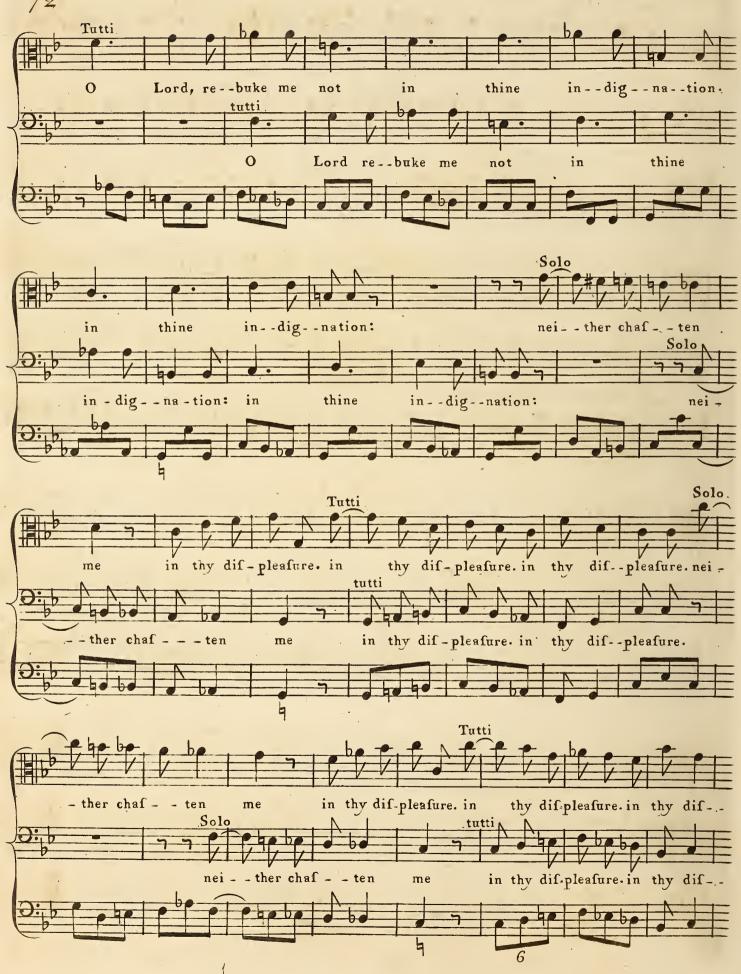
## PSALM VI

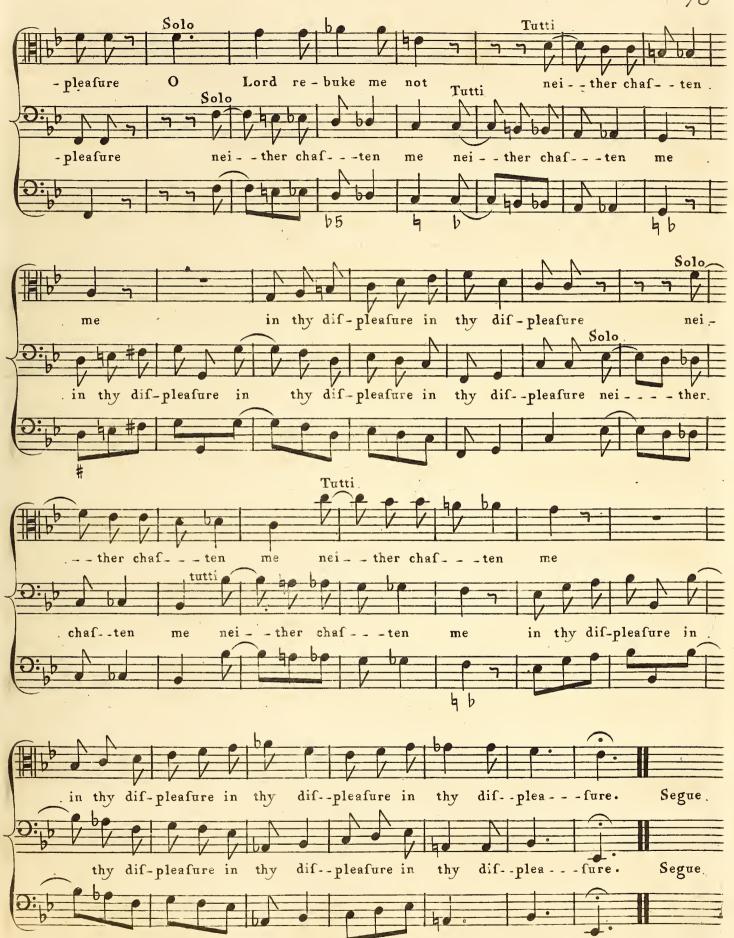
# ALTO, E BASSO.

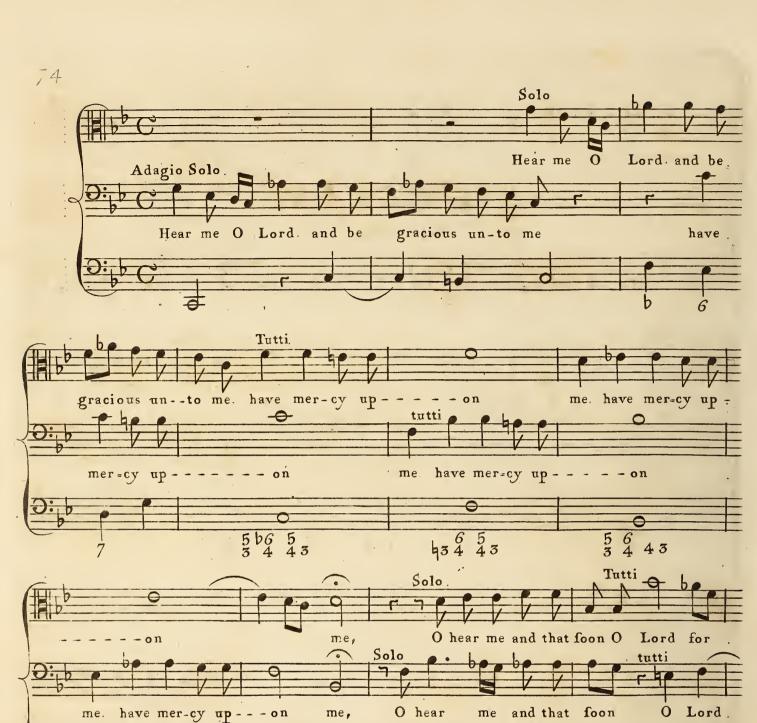
Domine, ne in furore tuo arguas me &c.

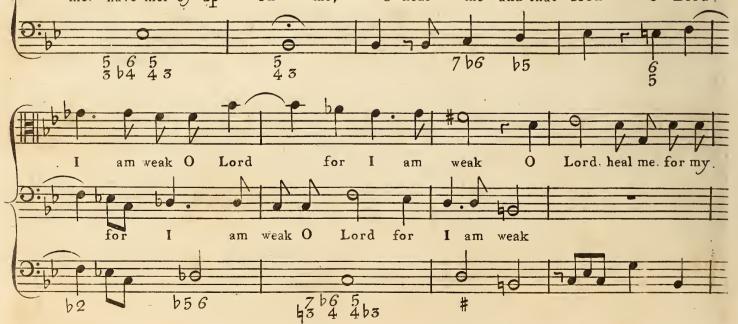


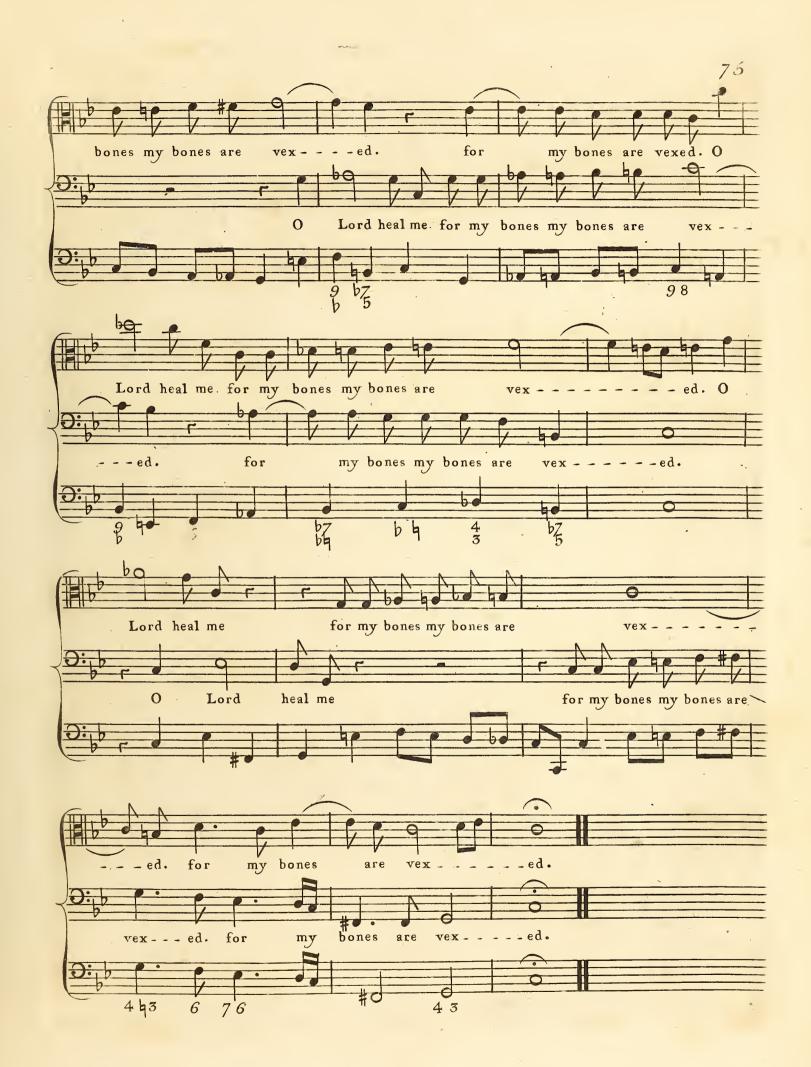










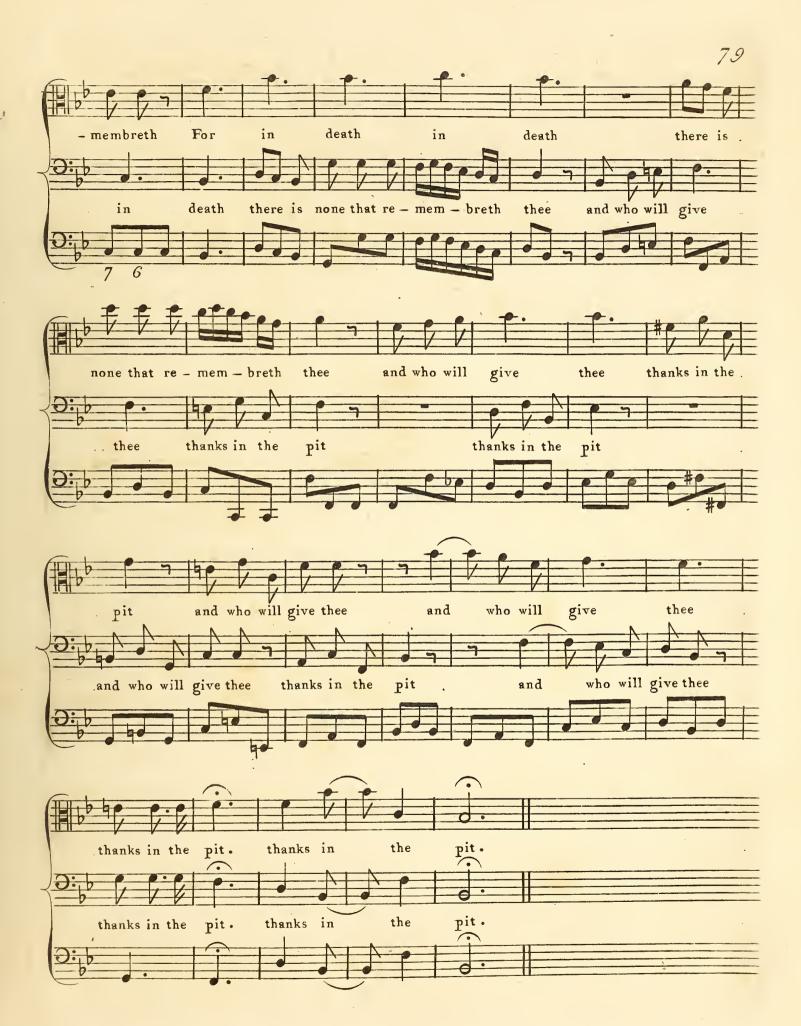






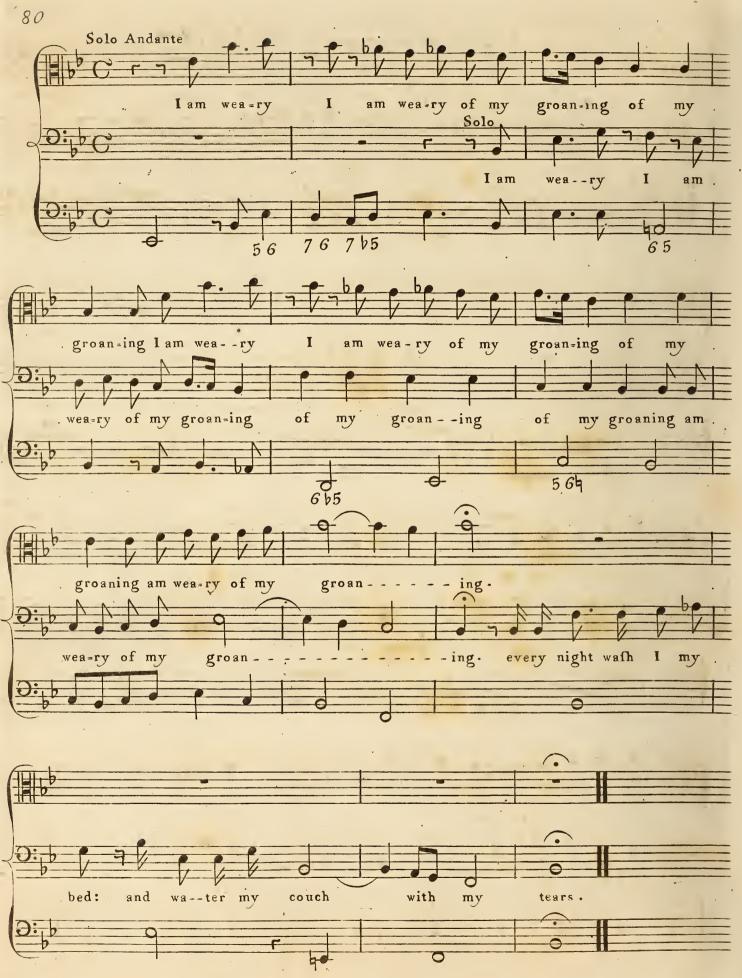




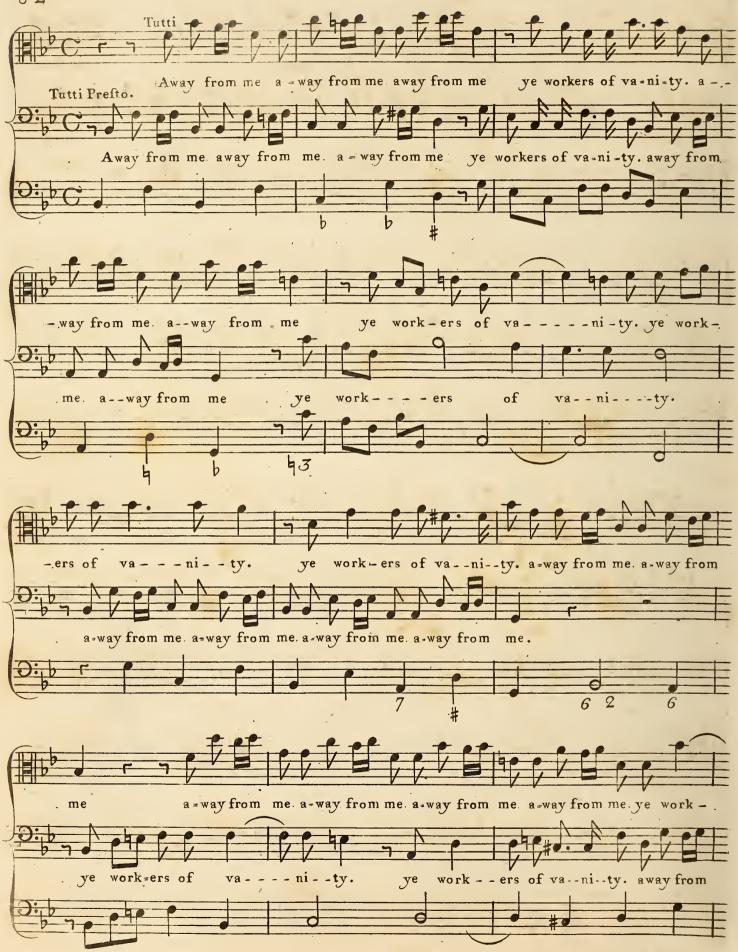


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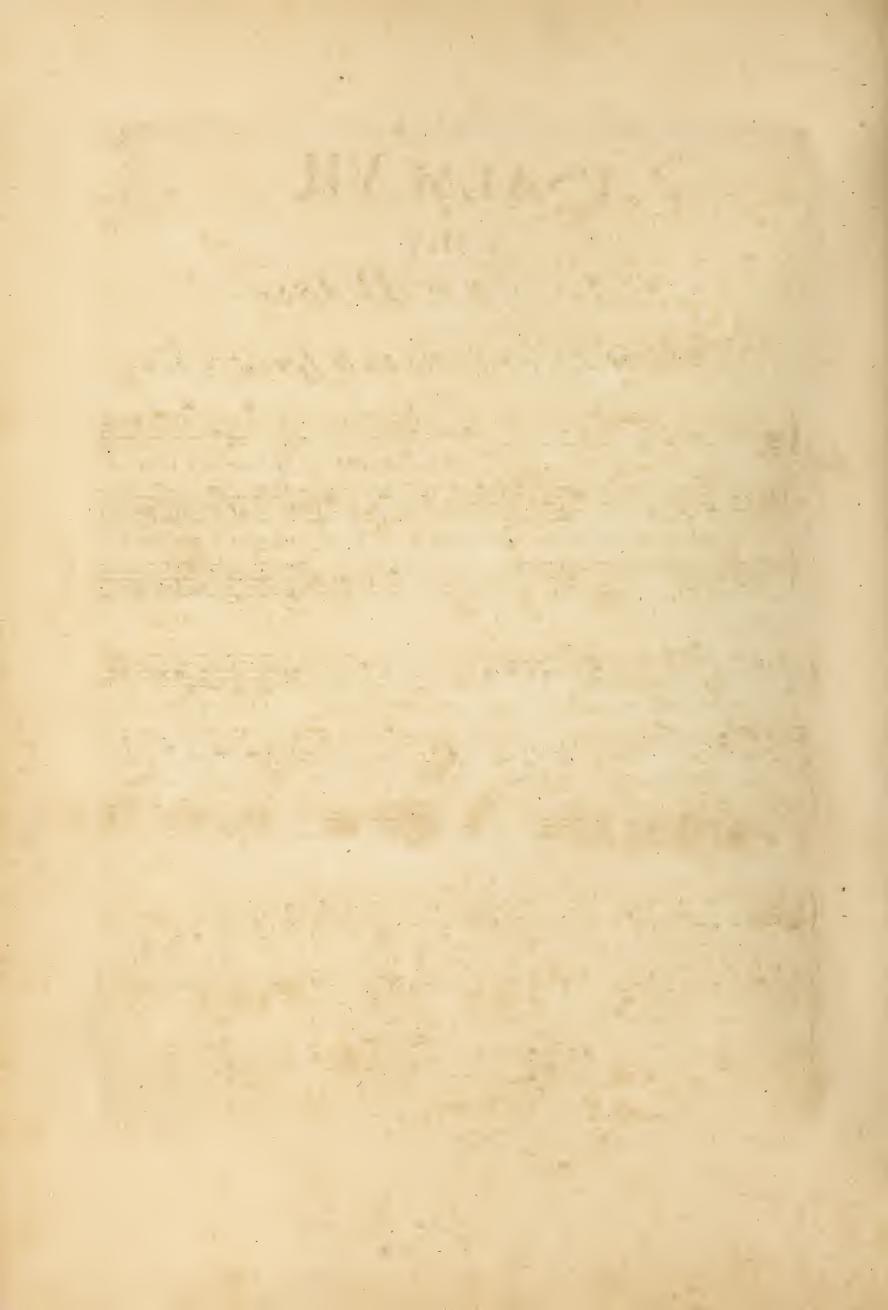










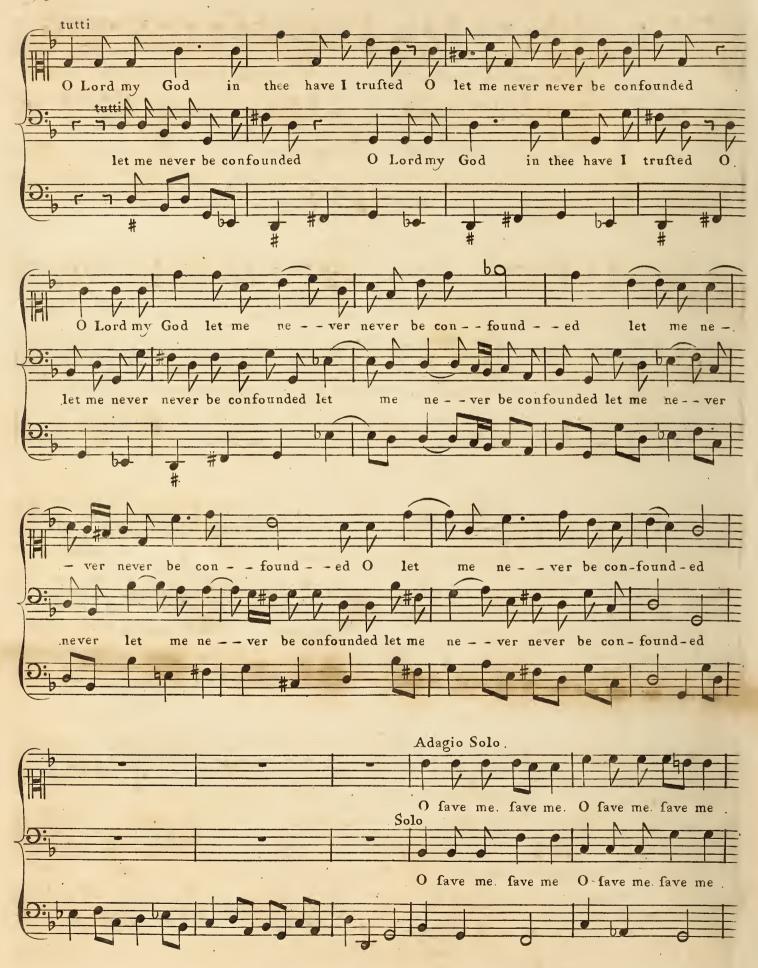


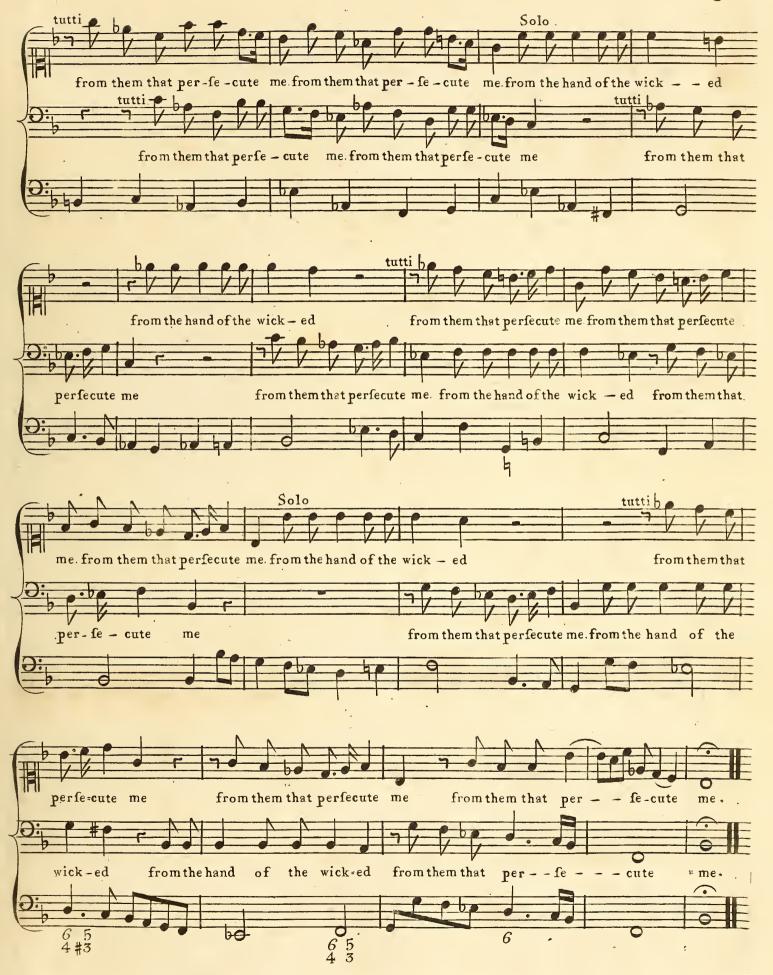
## PSALM VII

## A DUE CANTO, E BASSO.

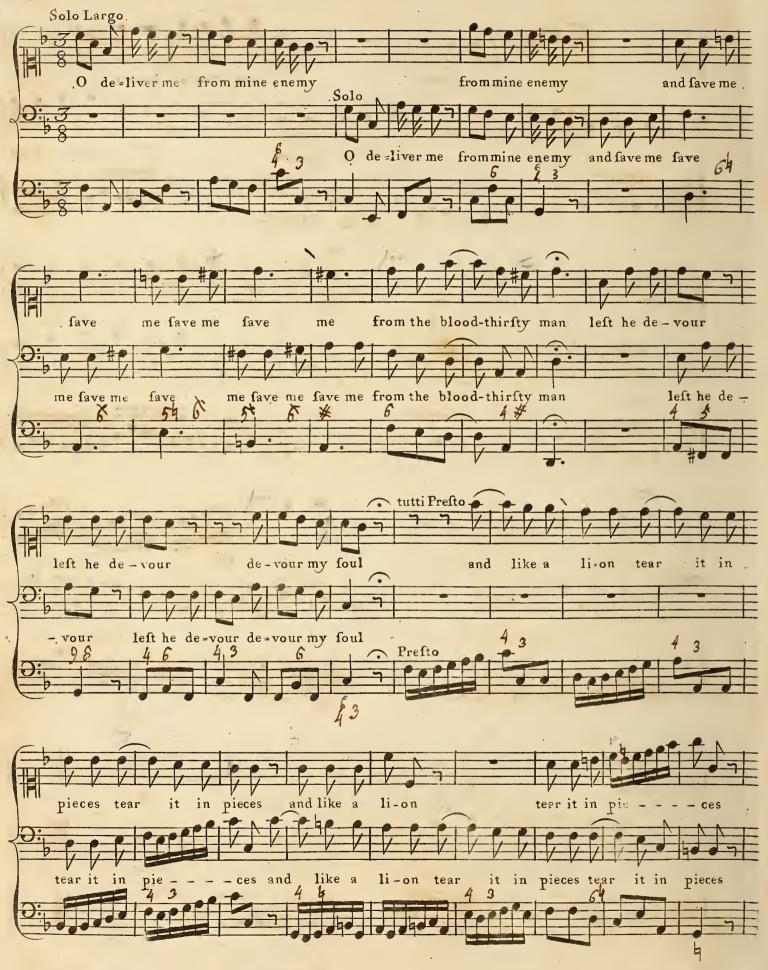
Domine Deus meus in te speravi & c.



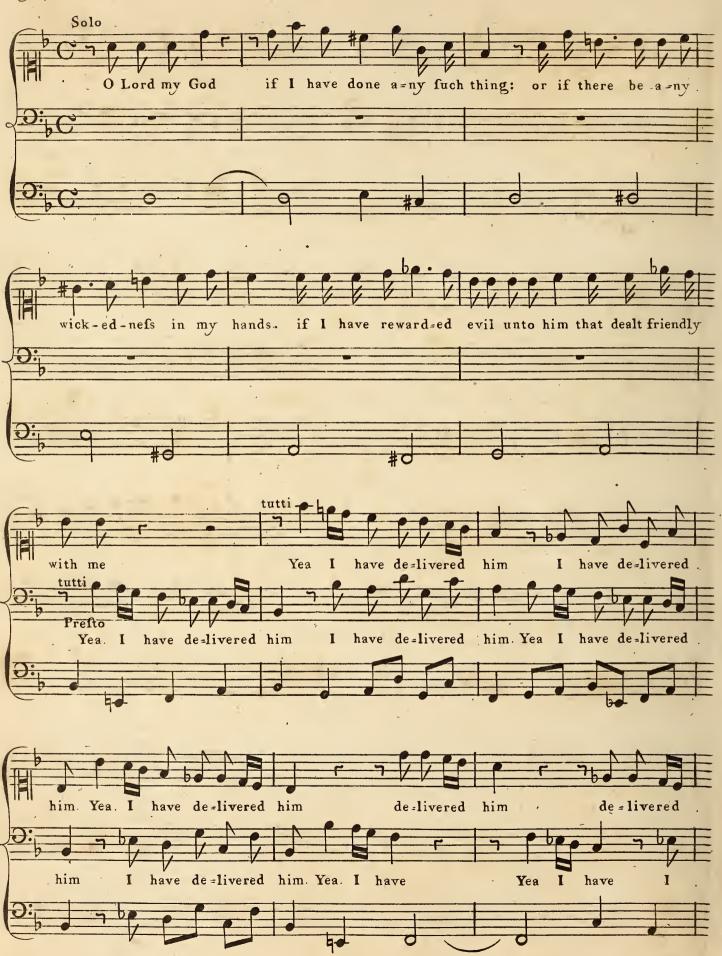




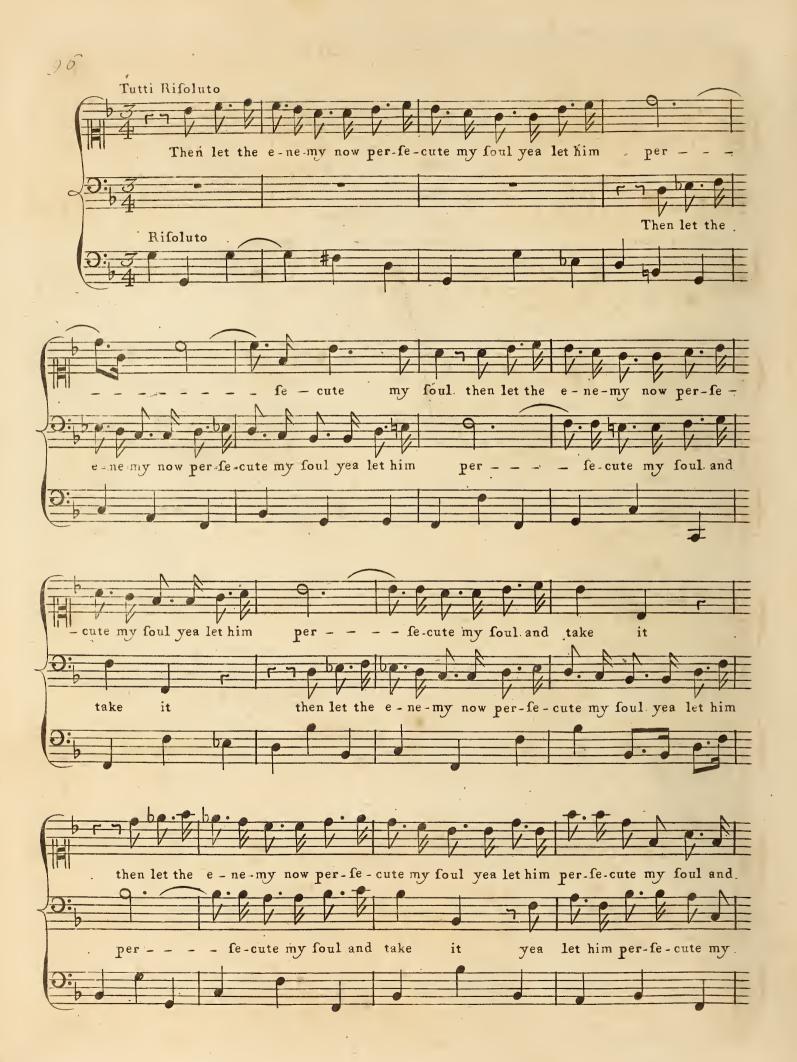








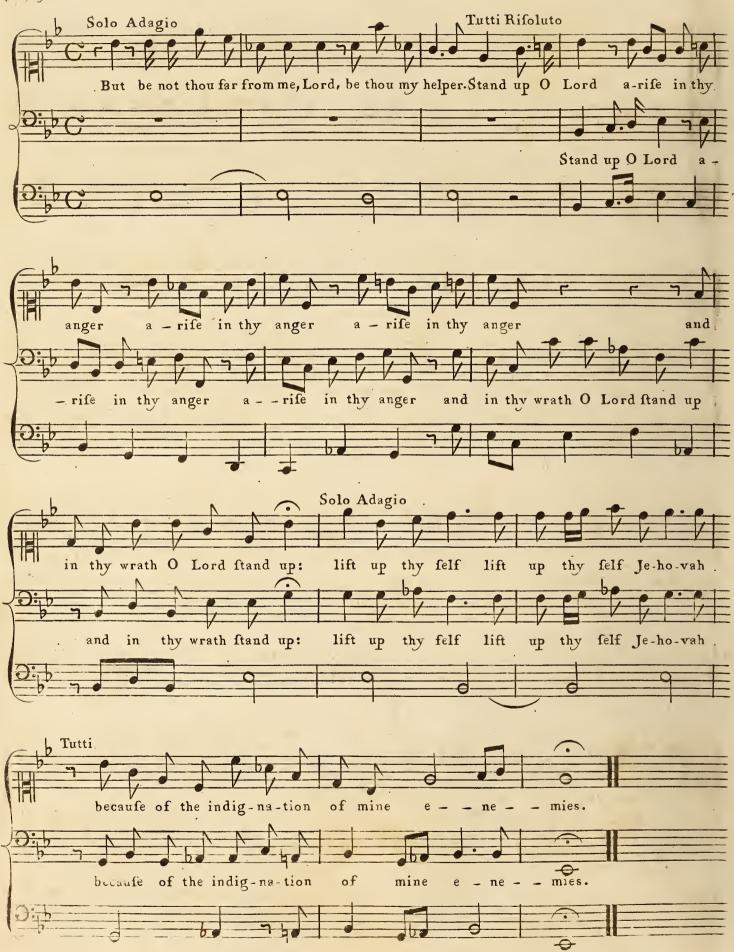




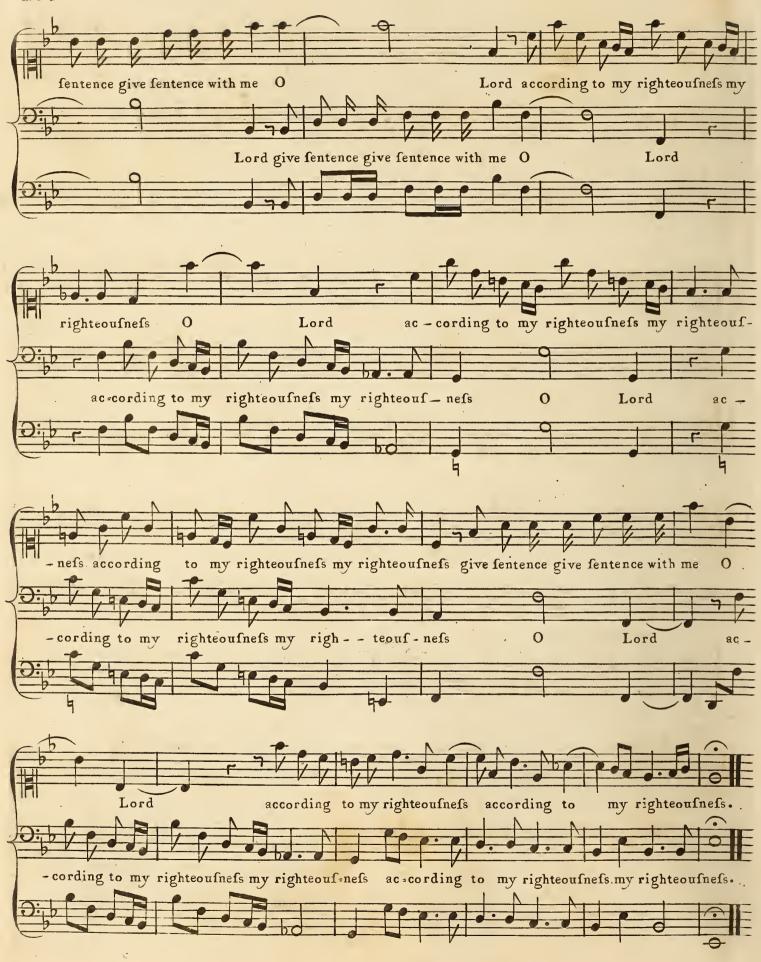




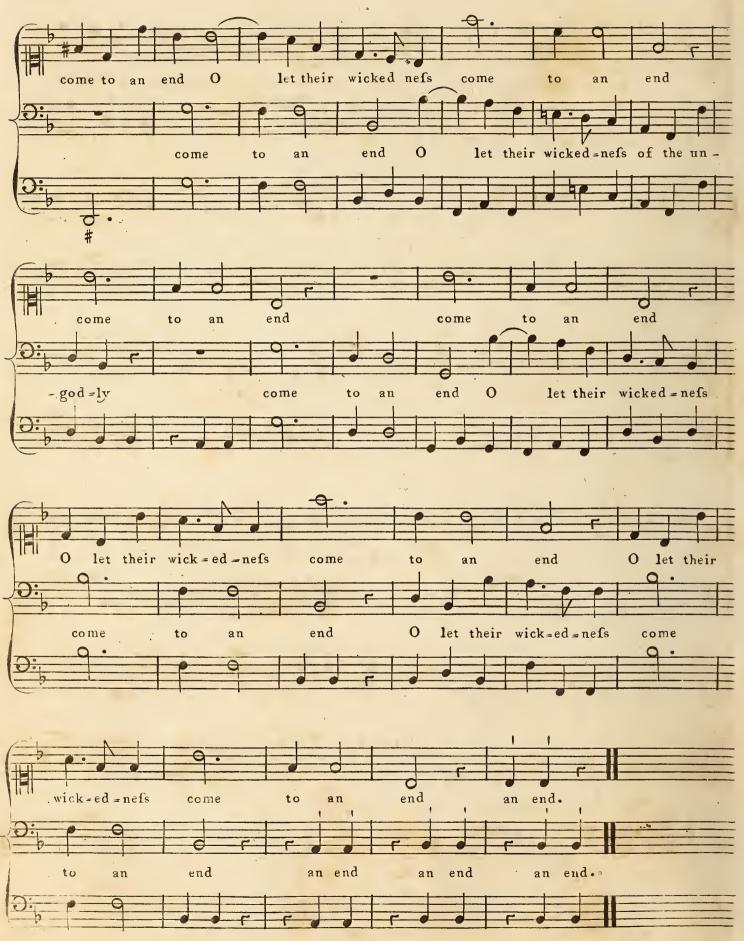
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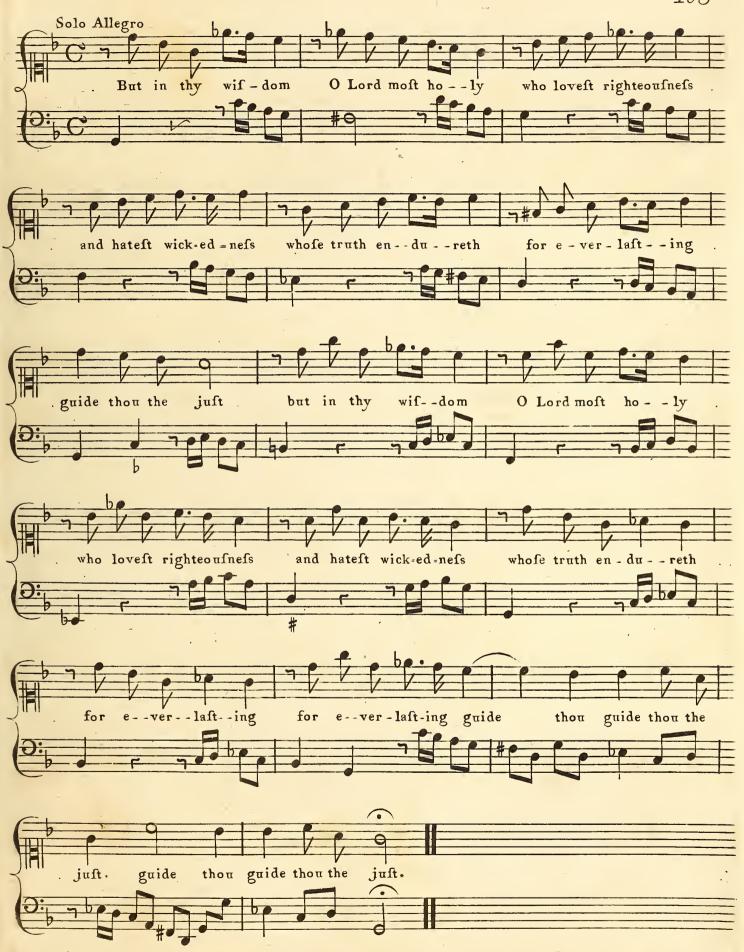






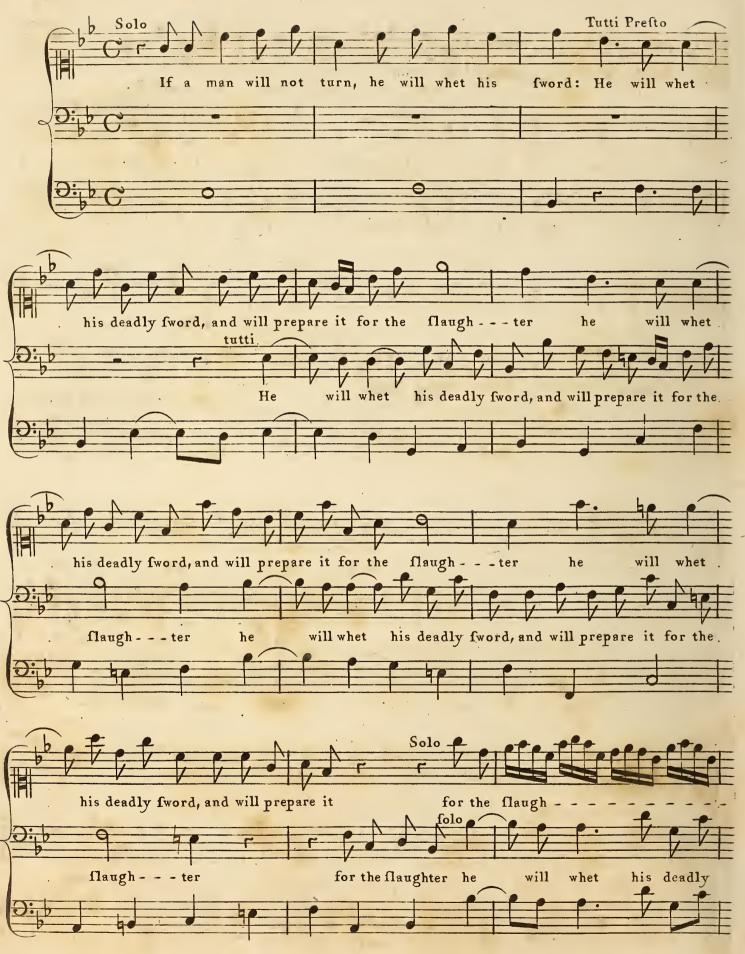




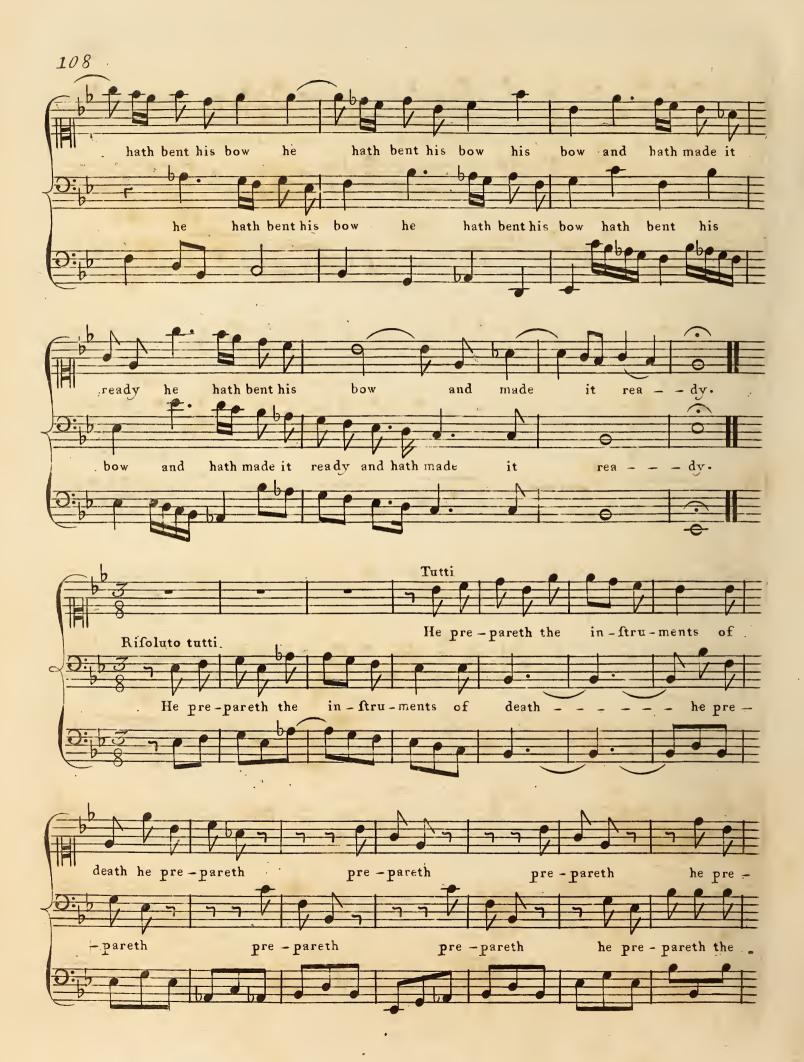




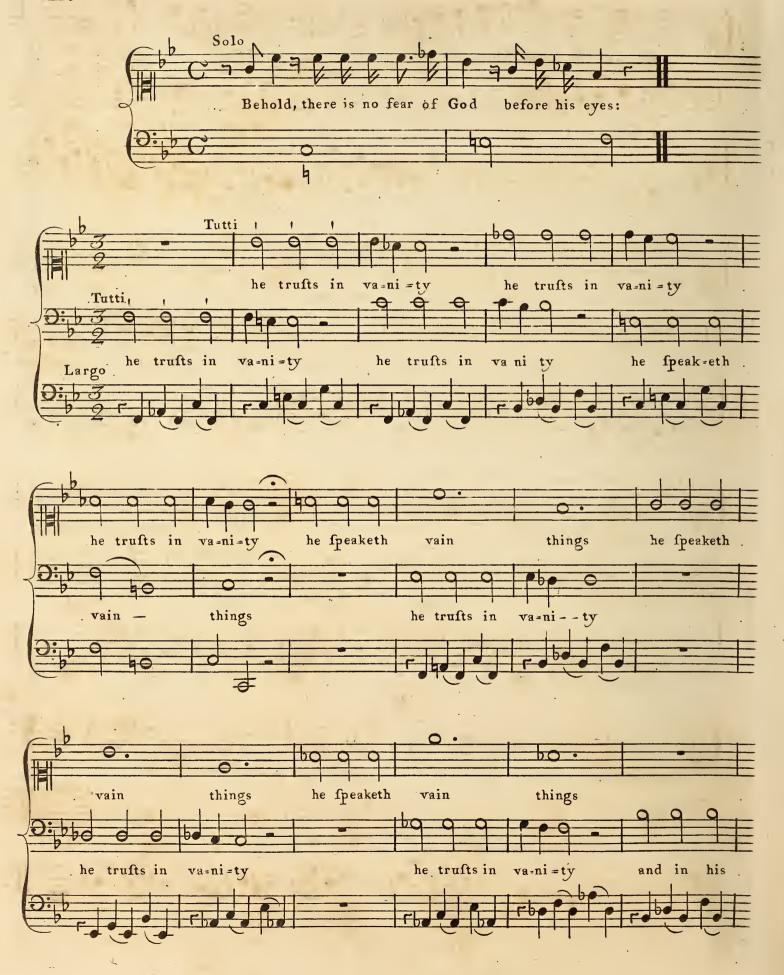




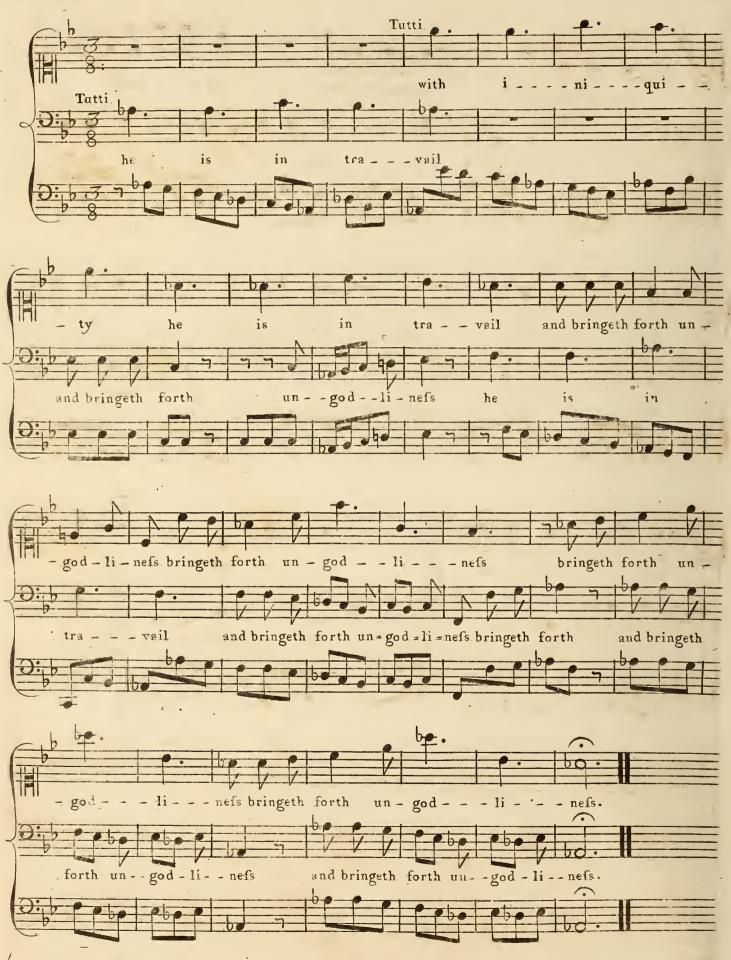


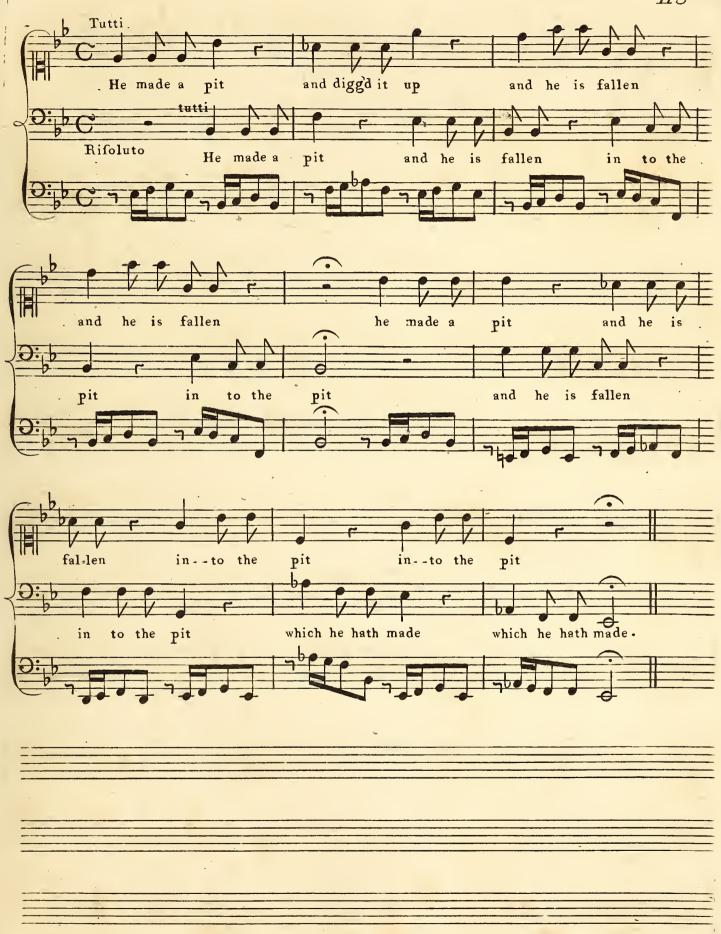


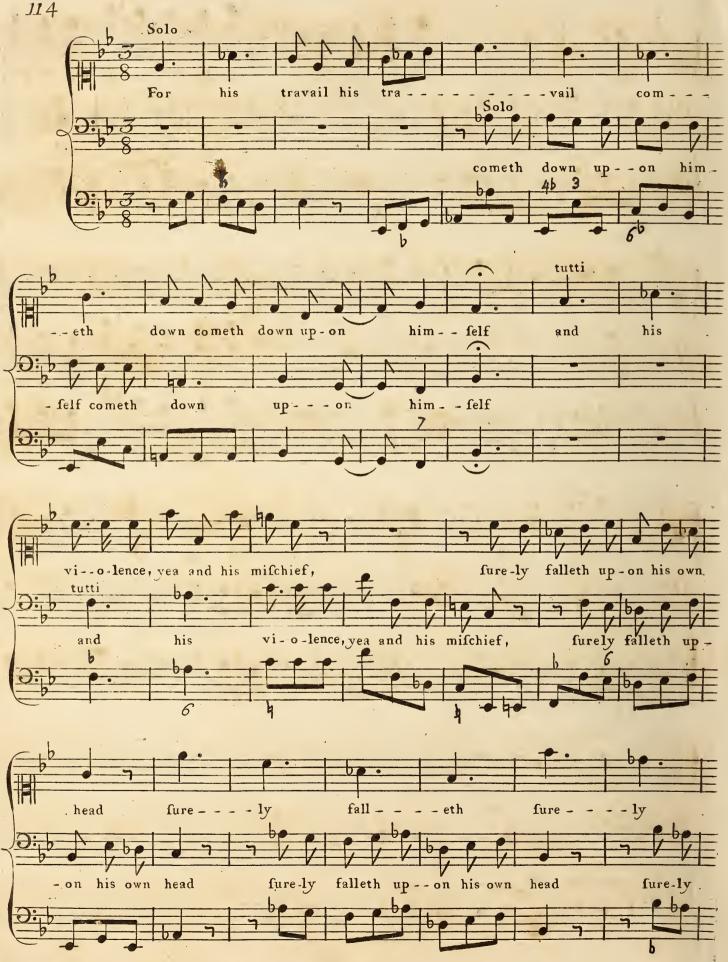








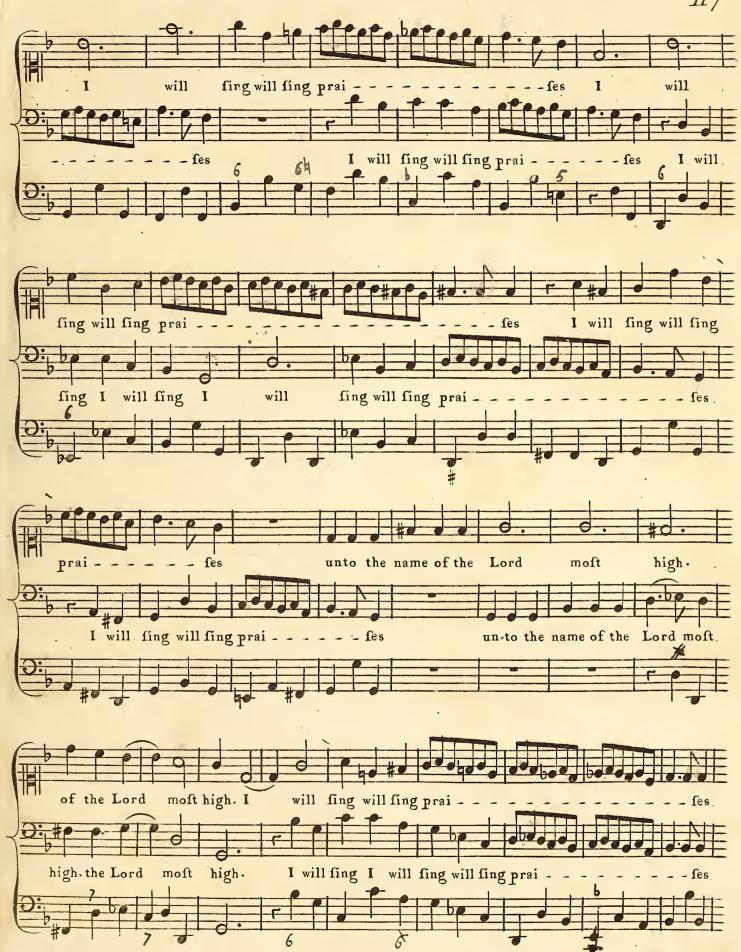








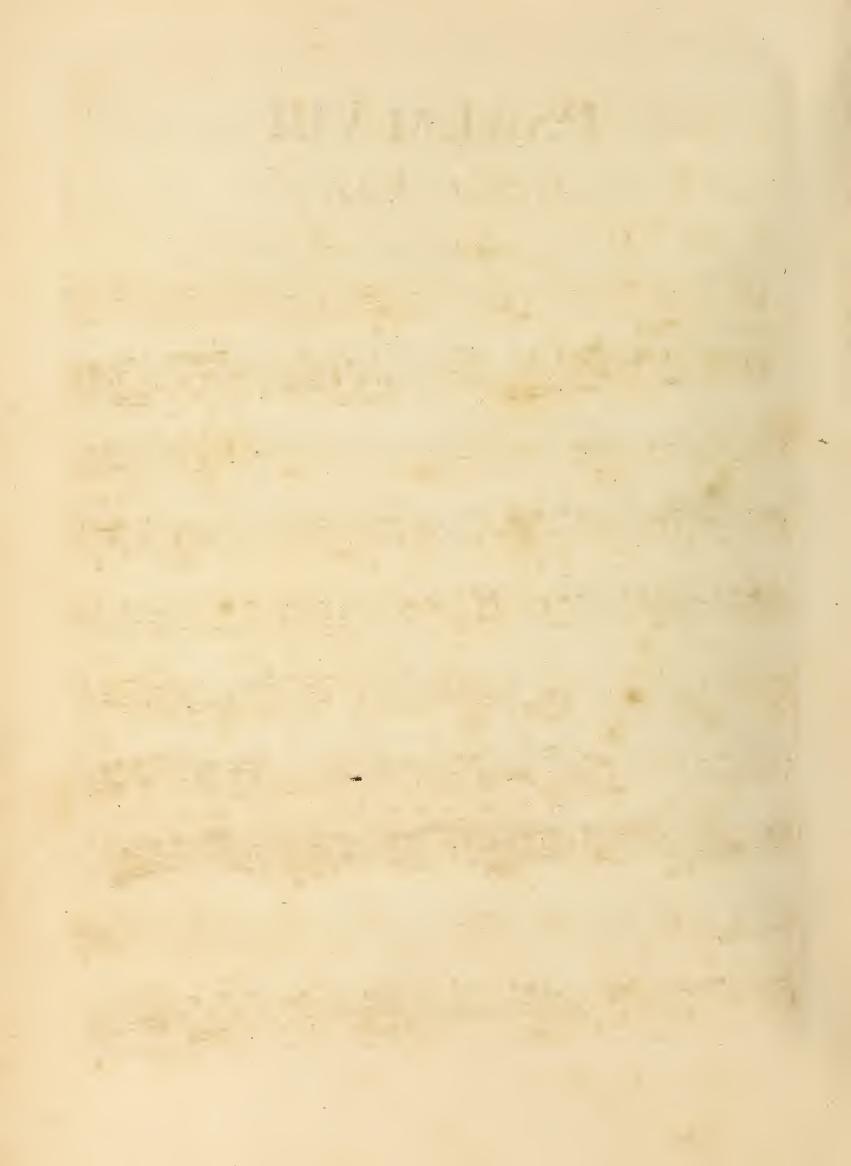
116 Solo I will give thanks un to the Lord according to his righteoufnefs. Segue Subito righteoufnefs. according to his will fing will fing prai. Solo fing will fing prai unto the name of the fes unto the name of the high. most high. I will fing will fing Prai of the Lord most high. will fing will fing prai - -



un = to the name of the



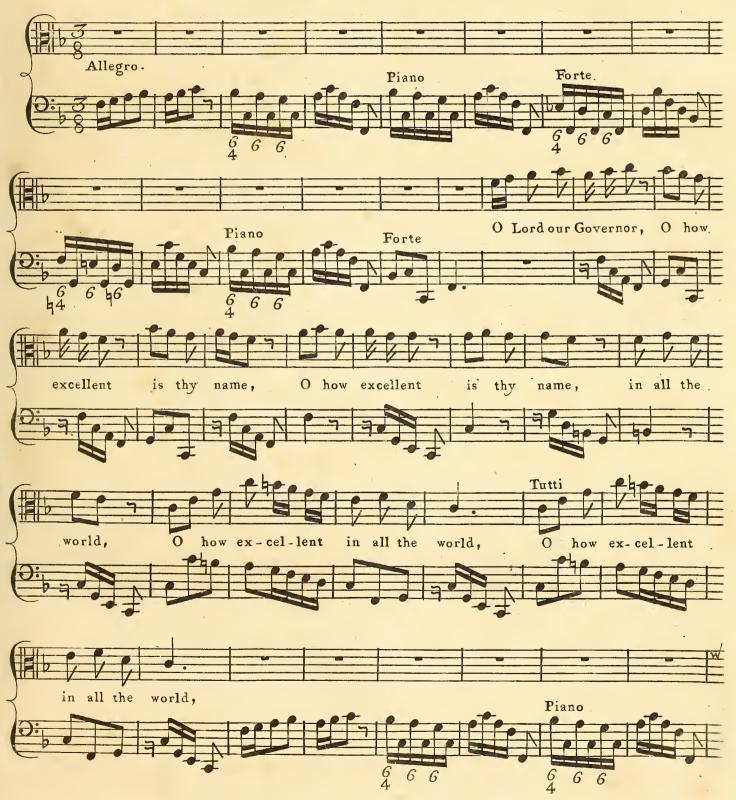




## PSALM VIII

### ALTO SOLO.

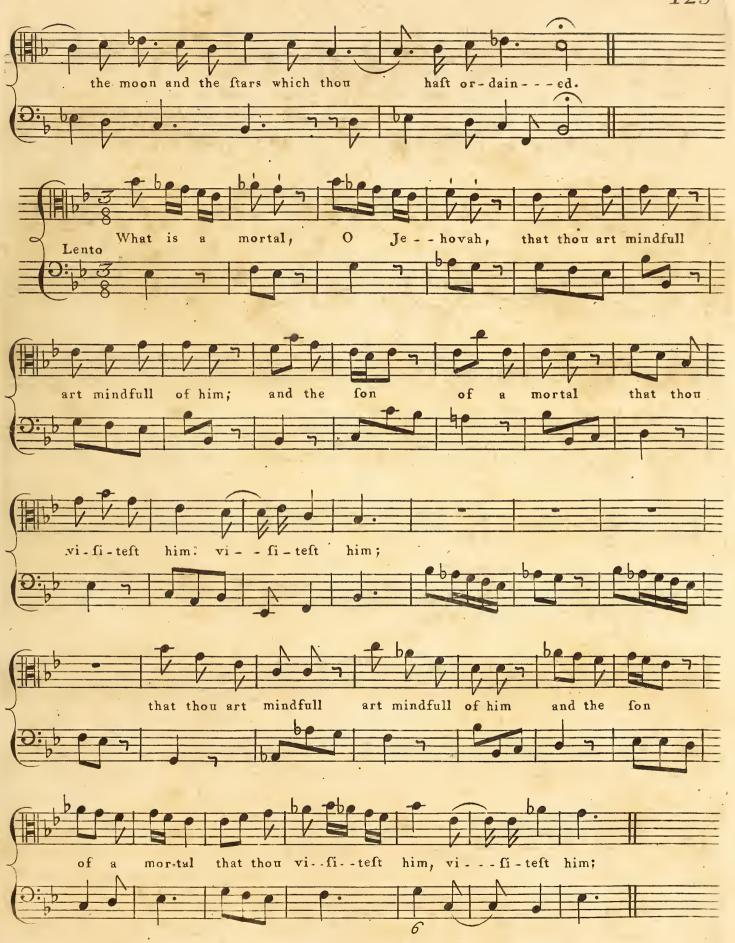
Domine Dominus noster &c.

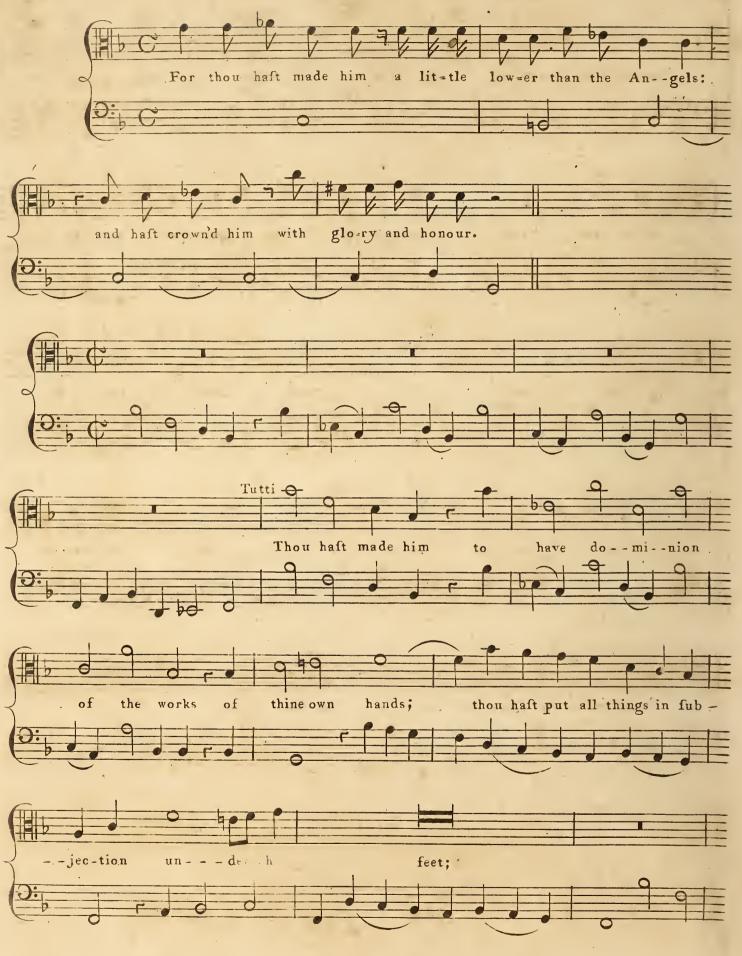




















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Burn

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