

Miserere Nostri

Thomas Tallis

Mi - se - re - - - re no - stri, Do-

Mi - se - re - - - re no - stri, _____

Mi - se - re - re no - stri, Do - - - mi - ne, mi - se - re - - - re no -

Mi - - - - se - - - re - - - -

Mi - se - re - re no - - - - stri, mi -

Mi - - - - se - re - - - re

Mi - se - re - - - - - re no -

Miserere nostri, Domine: *Have mercy upon us, O Lord.*

Soprano I and II are in strict canon. The Tenor I part may also be sung by sopranos/altos one octave higher. Tenor II may be sung by baritones or baritones with tenors.

Original key: F major. Pitch in 16th century England was likely very high and this key is probably closer to the actual performance pitch. This likely earlier work was probably part of a full setting of the Psalm, but this section is all that remains of this setting. It demonstrates surprising rhythmic complexity. Note values and barring have been adjusted for modern notation. It is particularly important in this aniphon to sing through the barlines, allowing the rhythmic and natural accent of the text to guide phrasing.

5

S mi - ne, mi - se - re - re

S Do - mi - ne, mi - se - re -

TI stri, mi-

TII re no - stri, Do -

TIII se - re re no - stri, Do - mi-

BI no - stri,

BII stri, Do -

9

S no - - - stri, mi - se-re - - - re no-

S re no - stri, mi - se - re - - - re no-

TI 8 - se - re - re - - - no-stri, Do - - - - mi - - - - ne, mi-

TII 8 - - - - - mi - ne, mi - - - - - se - - - - re-

TIII 8 - - - ne, mi - se re - - - re no - stri, mi-se - re - -

BI Do - - - - - mi - ne, mi - se - re - - -

BII - mi - ne, mi - se - re - - - - - - - - - re

S
stri, mi - se - re - - - - re mi - se -

S
- - stri, mi - se - re - - - - re mi -

TI
8 - - se - re - - - re_ no - - - - stri, mi - se - re - - - re_

TII
8 - - - - - re no - - - - -

TIII
8 - - re_ no - - - - - stri, no -

BI
re_ no - - - - -

BII
- no - - - - - stri, mi - se - re - re_ no -

Musical score for SATB choir and strings, measures 19-22. The score is in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The vocal parts (Soprano, Alto, Tenor I, Tenor II, Alto III) have lyrics: "re - - - re no - - - - - stri." and "se - re - - - re no - - - - - stri." The string parts (Violin I, Violin II, Viola, Violoncello) have lyrics: "no - - - - - stri.", "stri.", "stri, no - - - - - stri.", "stri.", and "stri." respectively. The strings play a sustained harmonic accompaniment with some melodic movement in the lower parts.