Reasons to learne to sing for sixteen-part choir (SSSSAAAATTTTBBBB) and optional organ

Clifton Callender

2008

Commissioned for the 50th Anniversary of the College Music Society

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Clifton Callender text by William Byrd

Commissioned by the College Music Society on the occasion of their 50th anniversary

Text:

Reasons briefely set downe by the 'auctor, to perswade everyone to learne to sing.

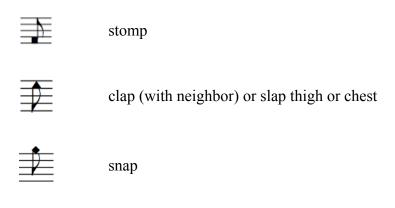
First it is a Knowledge easely taught, and quickly learned where there is a good Master, and an apt Scoller.

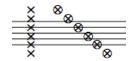
- 2. The exercise of singing is delightfull to Nature & good to preserve the health of Man.
- 3. It doth strengthen all the parts of the brest, & and doth open the pipes.
- 4. It is a singular good remedie for a stutting & stammering in the speech.
- 5. It is the best meanes to procure a perfect pronunciation & to make a good Orator.
- 6. It is the onely way to know where Nature hath bestowed the benefit of a good voyce: which guift is so rare, as there is not one among a thousand, that hath it: and in many, that excellent guift is lost, because they want Art to expresse Nature.
- 7. There is not any Musicke of Instruments whatsoever, comparable to that which is made of the voyces of Men, where the voyces are good, and the same well sorted and ordered.
- 8. The better the voyce is, the meeter it is to honour and serve God therewith: and the voyce of man is chiefly to be imployed to the ende.

omnis spiritus laudet Dominum.

Since singing is so good a thing I wish all men would learne to sing.

Notation:





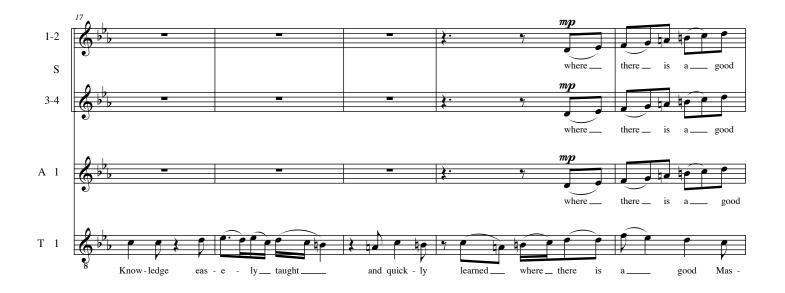
indefinite pitch (location of note head on staff indicates relative pitch height, not exact pitch)

Reasons to learne to sing





^{*} Organ registration is given as a suggestion, indicating only those stops and registers that are meant to be clearly heard



















































* turn off organ, holding chord until sound has completely died