

Teach Me the Measure of My Days

From Psalm 39:4-7

The musical score is written for a four-part choir (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) in 4/4 time, with a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The melody is primarily in the Soprano and Alto parts, with the Tenor and Bass parts providing harmonic support. The lyrics are printed below the vocal staves, with some words in italics to indicate specific phrasing or emphasis. The score consists of two systems of music, each with four staves. The first system covers the first six lines of the lyrics, and the second system covers the remaining lines. The music concludes with a final cadence in the Soprano and Alto parts, while the Tenor and Bass parts end with a sustained chord.

1. Teach me the mea - sure of my days, Thou Mak - er of my frame;
2. A span is all that we can boast, An inch or two of time;
3. *See the vain race of mor - tals move Like sha - dows o'er the plain;*
4. *Some walk in hon - or's gau - dy show, Some dig for gold - en ore;*
5. What should I wish or wait for, then, From creatures, earth and dust?
6. Now I for - bid my car - nal hope, My fond de - sires re - call!

I would sur - vey life's nar - row space, And learn how frail I am.
Man is but van - i - ty and dust In all his flow'r and prime.
They rage and strive, de - sire and love, But all their noise is vain.
They toil for heirs they know not who, And straight are seen no more.
They make our ex - pec - ta - tions vain, And dis - ap - point our trust.
I give my mor - tal in - terest up And make my God my all.

Music: *Southern Harmony*, 1854

Text: Isaac Watts (1674-1748)

SUFFIELD

8 6. 8 6.