

= Remember not , Lord , our offences =

Remember not , Lord , our offences , Z.50 , is a five @-@ part choral anthem by the English baroque composer Henry Purcell ( 1659 ? 95 ) . The anthem is a setting of a passage from the litany compiled by Thomas Cranmer , Archbishop of Canterbury , and later included in the Anglican Book of Common Prayer . It was composed circa 1679 ? 82 at the beginning of Purcell 's tenure as Organist and Master of the Choristers for Westminster Abbey .

= = Composition = =

Remember not , Lord , our offences is an anthem for an a cappella choir consisting of five voice parts : two soprano parts , alto , tenor and bass ( SSATB ) . Purcell originally composed the 44 @-@ measure work in the key of A minor . Some arrangements of the anthem include a continuo instrumental accompaniment . Musicologist and historian Franklin B. Zimmerman ( born 1923 ) designated the anthem as " Z.50 " in his catalogue of Purcell 's works . The duration of performances and recordings of this work is approximately 3 minutes .

The lyrics of Purcell 's anthem are drawn from a passage in the beginning of the Exhortation and Litany compiled in 1544 by Thomas Cranmer ( 1489 ? 1556 ) , the Archbishop of Canterbury . Cranmer established the liturgical structures for the Church of England after the Reformation and prepared the church 's first official authorised vernacular service . He derived the text of the litany from two medieval Sarum rite litanies and a German Litany by Martin Luther . Cranmer added the litany to the 1549 edition of the Book of Common Prayer and it has been included in subsequent editions . Purcell set an excerpt from the litany :

Scholars date the composition of Remember not , Lord , our offences to the period generally between 1679 and 1682 . Cummings states that Purcell included it in a collection of anthems compiled in 1683 . During this time , Purcell had been appointed Organist and Master of the Choristers of Westminster Abbey in 1679 with the resignation of John Blow . He dedicated the next few years entirely to the composition of sacred music . In July 1682 , following the death of Edward Lowe , Purcell was appointed organist of the Chapel Royal ? an office which he held simultaneously with his position at Westminster Abbey . In his personal life , Purcell had married Frances Peters ( or Pieters ) who bore him a son that died shortly after birth .

During the 1680s and tenure at Westminster Abbey and the Chapel Royal , Purcell compiled earlier and contemporary sacred music ( including several of his own compositions ) into one collection for the use of the choirs of both churches . Two extant manuscripts compiled by Purcell are currently held in the collections of the University of Cambridge 's Fitzwilliam Museum . Both manuscripts include Remember not , Lord , our offences .

The choral anthems , including Remember not , Lord , our offences , that Purcell composed after his appointment to Westminster and before his appointment at the Chapel Royal are described as his " last concentrated involvement with the verse anthem without strings . " After 1681 , Purcell began including string accompaniments to his choral anthems ? a shift that musicologist Martin Adams attributes to having more resources available to him with his appointment to the Chapel Royal . Adams states that the anthems of this period included revisions of earlier works , including his well @-@ known setting of the Anglican funeral sentences , and that these works are " distinguished by complex contrapuntal textures , a concentration on a limited quantity of motivic material , and the somber expression of penitential texts . " Purcell 's anthems reflect the influence of compositional techniques developed by earlier composers William Byrd and Orlando Gibbons . These anthems are closely related to those composed by Purcell 's friend and teacher , John Blow , " with their basso seguente continuo and severe counterpoint , they are true stile antico . "