

TUNES
OF THE
BAY PSALM
BOOK
Of 1698

INTRODUCTION

This is the first music printed in the New World. In 1640, the Bay Psalm Book, a new translation of the Psalms into metrical English verse, was produced by Richard Mather and John Eliot for the Massachusetts Bay Colony. Not until its ninth edition, printed in 1698, were any tunes printed in the Bay Psalm Book. In that edition, thirteen tunes were added to which the Psalms were to be sung, the first music ever printed in America. These tunes were Reformation Psalm tunes brought over from Europe.

Along with the tunes, the book gave instruction as to which tunes were appropriate for which Psalms and paired each tune with one Psalm as a sample. In a day of a cappella singing, the book also gave instruction as to how high or low to set the first note of each tune so that it could be sung comfortably. Below, we reproduce the instruction given concerning the tunes, and following that, we give a brief quotation from the preface of the Bay Psalm Book, followed by the tunes themselves (melody and bass lines only, as in the original), paired with their own sample Psalms.

These thirteen Psalm tunes give us a beautiful glimpse into the Psalm-singing of our forefathers.

EIGHT SHORT TUNES

Those Requiring a "Cheerful High Pitch":

Oxford Tune

Litchfield Tune

Low Dutch Tune

"To Psalms Consolatory"

York Tune

Windsor Tune

"To Psalms of Prayer, Confession, and Repentance"

Cambridge Short Tune "To Peculiar Psalms as 21,
24, 33, 70, 86 first meter, 114,
132"

Those Requiring a Lower Pitch:

St. David's Tune

Martyr's Tune "To Psalms of Praise and
Thanksgiving"

FIVE LONG TUNES

Hackney Tune

119th Psalm Tune Second Meter The first note
should be "low"

100th Psalm Tune The first note should be
"indifferently high"

115th Psalm Tune

148 Psalm Tune The first note should be "low"

"If . . . the verses are not always so smooth and elegant as some may desire or expect; let them consider that God's Altar needs not our polishings: Exodus 20., for we have respected rather a plain translation, than to smooth our verses with the sweetness of any paraphrase, and so have attended Conscience rather than Elegance, fidelity rather than poetry, in translating the Hebrew words into English language, and David's poetry into English meter; that so we may sing in Zion the Lord's songs of praise according to his own will; until he take us from hence, and wipe away all our tears, and bid us enter into our master's joy to sing eternal Hallelujahs."

References:

The Bay Psalm Book, Richard Mather and John Eliot.
The Music of the Bay Psalm Book, Richard G. Appel.

Psalm 4
OXFORD TUNE

1.(1) God of my jus - tice, when I call,
 2.(2) Ye sons of men my glor - y turn
 3.(3) But know the Lord hath set a - part
 4.(4) Be stir - red up, but do not sin,

O hear me: when dis - trest
 to shame how long will you?
 for him his gra - cious saint:
 con - sid - er ser - ious - ly

Thou hast en - larg'd me, show me grace,
 How long will ye love van - i - ty,
 The Lord will hear when un - to him
 With - in your heart with si - lence deep

and hear thou my re - quest.
 and still de - ceit pur - sue?
 I pour out my com - plaint.
 when on your bed you lie.

5.(5) Let sacrifice of righteousness
let sacrificed be:
And confidently put your trust
upon the Lord do ye.

6.(6) Many there be that say, O who
will cause us good to see?
The light Lord of thy countenance
let on us lifted be.

7.(7) Thou hast put gladness in my heart,
more than the time wherein
Their corn and their new wine also
have much increased been.

8.(8) In peace with him I will lie down
and I my sleep will take:
For me in confidence to dwell,
thou, Lord, alone dost make.

Psalm 69
LITCHFIELD TUNE

1.(1)The wat - ers in un - to my soul,
2.In - to deep wat - ers I am come,
3.Mine eyes fail, for my God I wait.
4.Al - so mine en - 'mies wrong - ful - ly

are come, O God me save.
where floods me o - ver - flow.
(4)They that have hat - ed me slay,
they are that would me slay,

(2)I am in mud - dy deep sunk down,
(3)I of my cry - ing wear - y am,
With - out a cause, than mine head's hairs
They might - y are; then I re - stor'd

where I no stand - ing have;
my throat is dri - ed so:
they more in num - ber be:
what I took not a - way.

5.(5)O God thou know'st my foolishness,
my sin's not hid from thee.

(6)Who wait on thee, Lord God of hosts,
let not be sham'd for me.

6.O never suffer them who do
for thee inquiry make,
O God of Israel, to be
confounded for my sake.

Psalm 23
LOW DUTCH TUNE

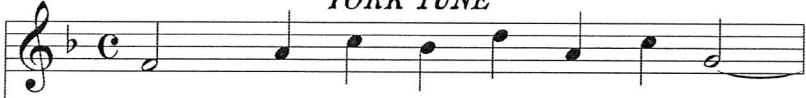
1.(1)The Lord to me a shep - herd is,
 2.He leads me to the wat - ers still.
 3.(4)In val - ley of death's shade al - though
 4.(5)Thou hast fore me a Ta - ble spread
 5.Good - ness and mer - cy my days all

want there - fore shall not I
 (3)Re - store my soul doth he:
 I walk, I'll fear none ill:
 in pre - sence of my foes:
 shall sure - ly fol - low me:

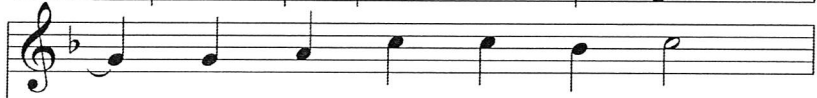
(2)He in the folds of ten - der grass
 In paths of righ - teous - ness he will
 For thou'rt with me, thy rod al - so
 Thou dost a - noint with oil mine head,
 And in the Lord's house dwell I shall

doth make me down to lie:
 for his name's sake lead me.
 thy staff me com - fort will.
 my cup it o - ver - flows.
 so long as days shall be.

Psalm 73
YORK TUNE



1.(1)Sure God is good to Is - ra - el, ___
 2.(3)For at the fools I en - vious was, ___
 3.(5)Like oth - er mean men they are not ___
 4.(6)Pride there - fore like a chain doth fence ___
 5.(7)Out of the ful - ness of their fat ___
 6.(8)Cor - rupt they are, and wick - ed - ly ___



— e'en to the clean in heart.
 — to see lewd men in peace.
 — in toil - some mis - er - y:
 — them on each side a - bout!
 — ex - tend - ed are their eyes:
 — speak guile; they proud - ly talk.



(2)But yet my feet had al - most slipt,
 (4)For with - out bands thro' death they pass
 Nor strick - en with like plagues are they,
 And like a gar - ment vi - o - lence
 They do en - joy more pros - p'rous state
 (9)Their mouth the heav - ens doth de - fy,



my steps did well nigh start.
 their strength doth noth - ing cease.
 as oth - er mor - tals be.
 doth cov - er them through - out.
 than what their hearts de - vise.
 their tongue thro' earth doth walk.



Psalm 116
WINDSOR TUNE

1.(1)I love; be - cause Je - ho - vah doth
2.(3)The pangs of death on ev - 'ry side
3.(4)Up - on Je - ho - vah's Name there - fore
4.(5)Je - ho - vah gra - cious is and just,

my voice and pray - er hear.
a - bout be - set me round:
I call - ed, and did say,
our God is kind al - so:

(2)And in my days will call, be - cause
The pains of hell gat hold on - me,
De - liv - er thou my soul, O - Lord
(6)The Lord the sim - ple keeps, and he

he bow'd to me his ear.
dis - tress and grief I found.
I do thee hum - bly pray.
me sav'd when I was low.

5.(7)O thou my soul do thou return
unto thy quiet rest:
Because the Lord hath bounteously
to thee himself exprest.

6.(8)Because that thou my soul from death
hast set at liberty:
Thou hast mine eyes from tears likewise,
and feet from fall set free.

7.(9)I in the land of living ones
will walk the Lord before.
(Seemingly sung with the latter half of the music.)

Psalm 70
CAMBRIDGE SHORT TUNE

1.(1)O God, to res - cue me:
2.Turn'd back and sham'd be they
3.(4)Let those that seek thee all
4.(5)But poor and need - y I,

Lord to mine help make haste.
that in my hurt de - light.
be glad and joy in thee;
haste God to me, I pray

(2)Who seek my soul a - sham'd let be,
(3)Turn'd back be they, ha, ha, that say,
Who love thy health, say still they shall
Thou art my help and lib - er - ty,

and let them be a - bash'd.
their shame for to re - quite.
God mag - ni - fi - ed be.
O Lord do not de - lay.

Psalm 95
ST. DAVID'S TUNE

1.(1)O come let us un - to the Lord
2.(2)Let us with giv - ing thanks draw nigh
3.(3)For God the Lord most might - y is,
4.(5)The sea to him be - long - ing is,

shout forth with joy - ful voice;
his ho - ly pre - sence to:
great king o'er all gods he,
be - cause he made the same;

To th'Rock of our sal - va - ti - on
Let us with Psalms tri - um - phant - ly
(4)Th'earth's deeps are in his hand, and his
And al - so the dry land is his,

let's make tri - um - phant noise.
un - to him sing al - so.
the strength of moun - tains be.
for it his hands did frame.

Psalm 39
MARTYRS TUNE

1.(1)I said I will look to my
2.(2)With si - lence I as dumb a -
3.(3)My heart with - in me wax - ed
4.(4)O Lord, mine end, and of my

ways, lest I sin with my tongue: I'll
bode, my mouth I did re - frain From
hot, whiles I was mus - ing long, In
days let me the mea - sure learn: That

keep my mouth with bit while I the
speak - ing of the thing that's good, and
me the fire in - kin - dled was, then
what a mo - men - tar - y thing I

wick - ed am a - mong.
stir - red was my pain.
spake I with my tongue.
am, I may dis - cern.

5.(5)Behold thou mad'st my days a span,
mine age as naught to thee:
At's best estate, sure ev'ry man
is wholly vanity.

6.(6)Sure man walks in an empty show,
a stir they therefore make,
Who heap up wealth, but do not know
who shall the same up take.

Psalm 61
HACKNEY TUNE

1.(1) Give ear, O God, un - to my cry,
2. Lead thou me up in - to the rock
3.(4) With - in thy tab - er - na - cle I
4.(5) For thou O God hast heard the vows

un that - to my prayer at - tend.
that high - er is than I.
for ev - er will a - bide;
that I to thee have past:

(2) When my heart is op - prest, to thee
(3) For thou my shel - ter and strong fort
With - in the cov - ert of thy wing
The her - i - tage to them that fear

cry will I from earth's end.
hast been from th'en - e - my.
I'll seek my - self to hide.
thy name, thou giv - en hast.

5.(6)Unto the king his days there shall
be added days by thee;
His years as generation
and generation be.

6.(7)In presence of the mighty God
he shall abide for aye:
Benignity and truth prepare,
that him preserve they may.

7.(8)So then will I for evermore
unto thy Name sing praise:
That I the vows that I have made
perform may all my days.

Psalm 119
PSALM 119 SECOND METER

1.(1) All blest are th'up - right in the way
2.(5) O that to keep thy sta - tutes then

who in the Lord's law go.
my ways were to di - rect!

(2) Who keep his re - cords blest are they
(6) Then shall I not be sham - ed when

whose whole heart seeks him too.
I all thy laws re - spect.

(3) Yea, they do no in - iq - ui - ty,
 (7) With up - right hearts I'll praise thee when

in's ways who walk - ing are:
 I learn thy judg - ments right

(4) To keep thou hast com - mand - ed me
 (8) I will ob - serve thy sta - tutes then:

thy pre - cepts with much care.
 O do not leave me quite.

Psalm 100
PSALM 100 FIRST METER

1.(1) Shout to Je - ho - vah all the earth.
 2.It's he that made us and not we,
 3.(5) Give thanks to him, bless ye his Name

(2) With joy - ful - ness the Lord serve ye:
 His folk his pas - ture's sheep al - so:
 Be - cause Je - ho - vah he is good:

Be - fore his pre - sence come with mirth.
 (4) In - to his gates with thanks come ye
 His mer - cy ev - er is the same:

(3) Know, that Je - ho - vah God, is he,
 With prais - es to his Court - yards go.
 His truth through - out all a - ges stood.

Psalm 115
PSALM 115 FIRST METER

1.(1)Not to us, not to us, O Lord,
2.They nos - es have, but smell no jot,

But glo - ry to thy Name af - ford:
(7)Hands have they but they han - dle not:

Both for thy truth and mer - cies' sake.
Feet have they, but they do not go:

(2)The heath - en where - fore should they say,
And through their throat they nev - er spake.

Where is their God now gone a - way.
 (8) Like them are they that do them make:

(3) But heav'ns our God his seat doth make,
 And all that trust in them are so.

He hath done what - so - e'er he would.
 (9) Trust in the Lord, O Is - ra - el:

(4) Their i - dols sil - ver are and gold,
 He is their help, their shield as well.

The han - dy - work of men they were.
 (10) O Aar - on's house the Lord trust ye

(5) They mouths have speech - less yet they be
 He is their help, their shield al - so.

Eyes have they but they do not see.
 (11) Who fear the Lord, him trust un - to:

(6) Ears have they but they do not hear.
 Their help, their shield al - so is he.

Psalm 148
PSALM 148 FIRST METER

1.(1)From heav'n O praise the Lord,
 2.(4)Ye heav'ns of heav'ns him praise:
 3.(7)Praise God from th'earth be - low,
 4.(10)Beasts, al - so cat - tle all,

Him praise the heights with - in
 (5)The Lord's Name let them praise,
 Ye dra - gons and each deep.
 Things creep - ing, fowls that fly.

(2)All's An - gels praise af - ford,
 'Bove heav'ns ye wat - ers clear
 (8)Fire, hall, and mist and snow;
 (11)Earth's kings, and peo - ples all

All's Ar - mies praise ye him.
 for he spake made they were.
 Whirl - winds, his Word which keep
 Peers all, th'earth's judg - es high.

(3) O give him praise
 (6) Them stab - lish'd he
 (9) Moun - tains al - so
 Do ye al - ways

Sun and Moon bright, All Stars of light, O give him praise.
 For e'er and aye: Not pass a - way Shall his de - cree,
 And hills all ye: Each fruit - ful tree, All Ce - dars too.
 Young men and maids, Old men and babes (13) The Lord's Name praise.

**This booklet is respectfully offered
for your prayerful consideration.**

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