

God is our refuge in distress

1

New Version of Tate and Brady (1696)

Psalms 46

Fairfield, by Joseph Stephenson (c1723-1810)

Edited by Francis Roads

[♩=80]

Soprano
Alto
Tenor [Air]
Bass
Keyboard

This system contains the first six measures of the piece. It features five staves: Soprano, Alto, Tenor [Air], Bass, and Keyboard. The tempo is marked as quarter note = 80. The key signature has two flats (B-flat and E-flat), and the time signature is common time (C). The Soprano part has a fermata and a circled '2' above the eighth measure. The Tenor part has a circled '2' above the eighth measure. The Keyboard part provides harmonic support with chords and moving lines in both hands.

7

S
A
T
B
Kbd.

This system contains measures 7 through 14. It features five staves: Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass, and Keyboard. The Soprano part has a circled '3' above the eighth measure. The system concludes with double bar lines and repeat signs on all staves.

15 [♩=100]

S
A
T
B
Kbd.

This system contains measures 15 through 22. It features five staves: Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass, and Keyboard. The tempo is marked as quarter note = 100. The time signature changes to 3/2. The Soprano part has circled '4' and '5' above the first and eighth measures, respectively. The system concludes with double bar lines and repeat signs on all staves.

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The musical score is arranged for Soprano (S), Alto (A), Tenor (T), Bass (B), and Keyboard (Kbd.). It consists of two systems of staves. The first system covers measures 20 to 23, and the second system covers measures 24 to 27. The key signature is B-flat major (two flats). The time signature is 4/4. The score includes vocal lines with lyrics and a keyboard accompaniment. Circled numbers 6 are placed above certain notes in the vocal parts. Trills (tr) are marked above notes in measures 25 and 26. First and second endings are indicated by brackets and numbers 1 and 2 at the end of the piece.

1. God is our refuge in distress,
 A present help when dangers press;
 In him undaunted we'll confide:
 Though earth were from her center tossed,
 And mountains in the ocean lost,
 Torn piece-meal by the roaring tide.

2. A gentler stream with gladness still
 The city of our Lord shall fill,
 The royal seat of God most high:
 God dwells in Zion, whose fair tow'rs
 Shall mock th' assaults of earthly pow'rs,
 While his almighty aid is nigh.

3. In tumults when the heathen raged,
 And kingdoms war against us waged,
 He thundered, and dispersed their pow'rs:
 The Lord of hosts conducts our arms,
 Our tow'r of refuge in alarms,
 Our fathers' guardian God and ours..

4. Come see the wonders he hath wrought,
 On earth what desolation brought;
 How he has calmed the jarring world:
 He broke the warlike spear and bow;
 With them the thund'ring chariots too
 Into devouring flames were hurled.

5. Submit to God's almighty sway,
 For him the heathen shall obey,
 And earth her sov'reign Lord confess:
 The God of hosts conducts our arms,
 Our tow'r of refuge in alarms,
 As to our fathers in distress.

Notes and emendation:

Edited from Stephenson's *Church Harmony Sacred to Devotion*
 (London 1760)

Circled numbers correpond with lines of text

Bar 15: The change of time signature indicates a faster tempo

Bar 25 soprano: repeat the underlined word

Bar 25 alto note 1: h. in score, making a five-crotchet bar