

Lord, judge my cause

1

Anon. to bar 21;
remainder Ps 34 v. 1 BCP

Henry Lawes (1596-1662) bars 1-21;
remainder anon.

Psalm 26 verse 1/Psalm 34 verse 1

Edited by Francis Roads

The musical score is written for three voices: Soprano/Tenor, Alto, and Bass. It begins with a tempo marking of quarter note = 96. The first system contains the first line of the text: "Lord, judge my cause; thy pre-sent eye be - hold my soul's in - te - gri - ty." The second system starts at bar 9 and is marked with a rehearsal letter 'A'. It contains the text: "How can I fall, when all my hopes on thee re - ly,". The third system starts at bar 16 and contains the text: "when I and all my hopes on thee re - ly?". The score concludes with a 3/4 time signature.

Edited from William Knapp's *A Sett of New Psalms and Anthems* (8th edition 1770), but first published by him in the third edition (1747). He ascribes the anthem to King Henry VII, which is unlikely on stylistic grounds alone. The voice allocation appears to be for two equal voices and bass (SSB or TTB). This is a practical edition considerably altered from Knapp's version.

The first section of the anthem follows the version of it in Robert Bremner's *A Collection of the Best Church Tunes, Canons, and Anthems* (Edinburgh, c1757). The *Hymn Tune Index* (Temperley, Oxford, 1998) indicates that that part of the setting was first published in Henry Lawes's *Choice Psalmes* (London, 1648). The British Library's copy of Lawes's original has the legend "Ps 26" added by a later hand, but no Long Metre paraphrase of this psalm has yet been found.

The second section (from rehearsal letter B) appears in Knapp on three staves, but the lower two staves are both in bass clef, and the lowest staff duplicates the music of that above it with small rhythmic simplifications, and has no text underlaid. It therefore has the appearance of an instrumental bass, something which does not occur elsewhere in Knapp's publications.

To make this practical edition for SAB voices, some alteration has been made in the first section where the middle part originally rose above the upper one. The alto part in the second section is editorial, and the apparent instrumental bass is omitted.

Lord, judge my cause

22 **B** [♩=80]

S I will al - ways give thanks un - to the Lord, I will al - ways give

A I will al - ways give thanks un - to the Lord, I will al - ways give

B I will al - ways give thanks un - to the Lord, I will al - ways give

28

S thanks un - to the Lord, his praise shall e - ver be in my mouth,

A thanks un - to the Lord, his praise shall e - ver be in my mouth,

B thanks to the Lord, his praise shall e - ver be in my mouth,

35 un -

S my soul shall make her boast in the Lord, the hum-ble shall hear there - of and be glad.

A my soul shall make her boast in the Lord, the hum-ble shall hear there - of and be glad.

B my soul shall make her boast in the Lord, the hum-ble shall hear there - of and be glad.

43 **C**

S Praise the Lord with me, praise the Lord with me, and let us mag-ni - fy his name, let us

A Praise the Lord with me, praise the Lord with me, and let us mag-ni - fy his name, let us

B Praise the Lord with me, praise the Lord with me, and let us mag-ni - fy his name, let us

49

S mag-ni - fy his name to - ge - ther, let us mag-ni - fy his name to - ge - ther.

A mag-ni - fy his name to - ge - ther, let us mag-ni - fy his name to - ge - ther.

B mag-ni - fy his name to - ge - ther, let us mag-ni - fy his name to - ge - ther.