

S T E P H E N   B A R K E R

# **Bless, O Lord, us thy servants**

*Vide, ut quod ore cantas, corde credas,  
et quod corde credis, operibus comprobas*

The tenth canon of the fourth council of Carthage (c. 398 AD) blessing for cantors.

Bless, O Lord, us thy servants,  
who minister in thy temple.  
Grant that what we sing with our lips,  
we may believe in our hearts,  
and what we believe in our hearts,  
we may show forth in our lives.  
Through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
Amen.

*Bless, O Lord, us thy servants* was first performed at my wedding on Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2016 by the choir of St Stephen's Church, Canterbury, directed by Grenville Hancox and accompanied by Christopher Gower.

For my wife, on our Wedding Day - 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2016

# Bless, O Lord, us thy servants

Choristers' Prayer

After a fourth century Latin blessing

STEPHEN BARKER

(b.1977)

♩ = 76

**Soprano Solo**

*mp*

Bless, O Lord,

**Organ**

Sw. *p*

*poco*

Ped.

**7**

*poco rit.*

us — thy ser - vants, who — min - is - ter in thy tem - - ple.

**A tempo**

**13**

**Soprano**

*p*

**Alto**

Bless, O Lord, us — thy ser - vants, who — min - is - ter

**Tenor**

**Bass** *p*

18

*mf* sing with our

in thy tem - - - ple. Grant that what we sing with our

*mf* sing with our

23

*f* *poco rit.*

lips, we may be - lieve in our hearts, what we sing with our lips, sing with our

sing with our lips, sing with our

sing with our lips, sing with our

*f*

28

*sub p* **A tempo** *mp*

lips we may be - lieve in our hearts, and what we be - lieve in our

*sub p* *mp* 3

*p* Sw. to Oboe Box shut *mp* Gt.

rit. A tempo

33

hearts we may show forth, may show forth in our lives.

*cresc. poco a poco*

*ff*



38

*ff*



43

rall. Broadly

unis. *f*

Through Je - sus Christ our Lord

unis. *f*

48

**Soprano**  
Through Je - sus Christ \_\_\_\_\_ our Lord. A - men. A - -

**Alto**  
Through Je - sus Christ \_\_\_\_\_ our Lord. Through Je - sus Christ \_\_\_\_\_ our

**Tenor**  
Through Je - sus Christ \_\_\_\_\_ our Lord. A - men. A - -

**Bass**  
Through Je - sus Christ \_\_\_\_\_ our Lord. Through Je - sus Christ \_\_\_\_\_ our

The musical score for measures 48-52 features four vocal parts (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) and a piano accompaniment. The vocal parts are in a soprano clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a common time signature. The lyrics are: "Through Je - sus Christ \_\_\_\_\_ our Lord. A - men. A - -". The piano accompaniment consists of chords and moving lines in both hands, with a key signature of one sharp and a common time signature.



53

*molto rit.* **ff**

men. A - men. A - - - men. A - men.

Lord. A - men. A - men.

men. A - men. A - - men. A - men.

Lord. A - men. A - men. A - men.

Add 16' stops or sub-octave coupler

Solo Tuba

The musical score for measures 53-57 features four vocal parts (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) and a piano accompaniment. The vocal parts are in a soprano clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a common time signature. The lyrics are: "men. A - men. A - - - men. A - men.", "Lord. A - men. A - men.", "men. A - men. A - - men. A - men.", and "Lord. A - men. A - men. A - men.". The piano accompaniment consists of chords and moving lines in both hands, with a key signature of one sharp and a common time signature. A "Solo Tuba" part is indicated in the piano accompaniment.

Meno mosso

58 *sempre ff* *p*

A - men. A - men. A - men. A -

A - men. A - men. A - men. A -

63 **Soprano Solo** *mp*

men. Bless, O Lord,

men.

*p poco*

68 **rit.**

us thy ser - vants.

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