

Tallis Canon

in 4 or 8 voices

The Tallis Canon is a tune familiar to choral singers all over the world. It was composed around 1560 and was contributed to Matthew Parker's Psalter. The words used below were written by Thomas Ken in the seventeenth century.

This canon is easily learned and sounds gorgeous. It is usually sung in four parts, but can be sung in eight if you're feeling adventurous. It's a great piece for helping singers to really listen to each other and learn how harmonies fit together. If numbers allow, try getting your singers to stand in one big circle, and have each person singing at a different time to their neighbours.

Once your singers can sing the canon without referring to the dots (or even better, teach it by ear), use it for practising tempo and dynamics so that you have pin-point control.

Four part version

(1) (2) (3)

Glo - ry to Thee, my God, this night, For all the bless-ings of the light, Keep

(4)

me, oh keep me, King of kings, Be - neath Thine own Al - migh - ty wings. Glo -

Eight part version

(1) (2) (3) (4) (5)

Glo - ry to Thee, my God, this night, For all the bless-ings of the light, Keep

(6) (7) (8)

me, oh keep me, King of kings, Be - neath Thine own Al - migh - ty wings. Glo -