

# How shall a young man prone to ill

*Psal. 119*

William Byrd (c.1540-1623)

Superius

Medius  
*The first singing part*

Contratenor

Tenor

Bassus

How shall a young man prone to ill, cleanse his un-brid - led

How shall a young man prone to

How shall a young

Detailed description: This block contains the first system of a five-part vocal setting. The parts are Superius (Soprano), Medius (Soprano, labeled 'The first singing part'), Contratenor (Alto), Tenor, and Bassus (Bass). The music is in G minor (three flats) and 4/2 time. The Superius part begins with a treble clef and a key signature of three flats. The lyrics are: 'How shall a young man prone to ill, cleanse his un-brid - led'.

5

heart, cleanse his un - brid - led heart? How

How shall a young

ill, how shall a young man prone to ill, cleanse

man prone to ill, cleanse his un - brid - led heart,

How shall a young man prone to ill, prone to ill,

Detailed description: This block contains the second system of the musical score. It continues the five-part setting. The lyrics for the Superius part are: 'heart, cleanse his un - brid - led heart? How'. The Contratenor part has the lyrics: 'How shall a young'. The Tenor part has: 'ill, how shall a young man prone to ill, cleanse'. The Bassus part has: 'man prone to ill, cleanse his un - brid - led heart,'. The system ends with the Tenor and Bassus parts having the lyrics: 'How shall a young man prone to ill, prone to ill,'.

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shall a young man prone to ill, cleanse his un-brid - led heart? If that

man prone to ill, cleanse his un - brid - led heart? If

his un - brid - led heart, cleanse his un - brid - led heart? If that thy law O

un - brid - led heart, un - brid - led heart? If that thy law O

cleanse his un - brid - led heart, his un - brid - led heart?

Detailed description: This block contains the third system of the musical score. The lyrics for the Superius part are: 'shall a young man prone to ill, cleanse his un-brid - led heart? If that'. The Contratenor part has: 'man prone to ill, cleanse his un - brid - led heart? If'. The Tenor part has: 'his un - brid - led heart, cleanse his un - brid - led heart? If that thy law O'. The Bassus part has: 'un - brid - led heart, un - brid - led heart? If that thy law O'. The system ends with the Tenor and Bassus parts having the lyrics: 'cleanse his un - brid - led heart, his un - brid - led heart?'.

15

thy law O Lord he do, all frail - ty set a - part.

that thy law O Lord he do, all frail - ty set a -

Lord he do, all frail - ty set a -

Lord he do, all frail - ty set a - part. Em - brace, em - brace with

If that thy law O Lord he do, all frail - ty set a -

20

Em - brace with set - tled mind, and learn thy word

-part. Em - brace with set - tled mind, and learn

-part. Em - brace with set - tled mind, and learn thy word with

set - tled mind, *em - brace* with set - tled mind, with set - tled mind, and

-part. Em - brace with set - tled mind, and learn thy word with care to

25

with care to keep:

thy word with care to keep: And seek to

care, with care to keep: And seek to find with hum - ble

learn thy word with care to keep, with care to keep, to keep: keep:

keep: And seek to find with hum - ble sprite, with hum - ble

sprite, and seek to find with hum - ble sprite,with\_\_ hum - ble sprite.

thy judge-ments that are\_\_\_\_\_ deep,                      thy judge - ments

that are\_\_\_\_\_ deep. And seek to\_\_\_\_\_ find, and

40

find with hum - ble sprite, thy judge - ments that are deep, that  
 - ble sprite, thy judge - ments that are deep,  
 find with hum - ble sprite, hum - ble sprite, thy judge - ments that are  
 with hum - ble sprite, thy judge - ments that are deep, that are  
 seek to find with hum - ble sprite, with hum - ble sprite, thy judge - ments

45

are deep, thy judge - ments that are deep.  
 thy judge - ments that are deep, that are deep.  
 deep, thy judge - ments that are deep, thy judge - ments that are deep.  
 deep, thy judge - ments that are deep, are deep, thy judge - ments that are deep.  
 that are deep, thy judge - ments that are deep.

1. How shall a young man prone to ill,  
 clense his unbridled heart?  
 If that thy law, O Lord hee doe,  
 all frailtie set apart.

Embrace with settled minde, and learne  
 thy word with care to keepe:  
 And search to find with humble spirit,  
 thy judgements that are deepe.

2. With my whole heart I have thee sought,  
 and searched out thy way:  
 O suffer not that from thy word,  
 I swarve or goe astray.

3. Thy woord O Lord, within my heart,  
 least I should thee offend:  
 I have laid up as treasure great,  
 for that shall mee defend.

4. The Lord is blest, hee shall me teach,  
 the judgements of his mouth,  
 Thereby to rule and dresse the waies,  
 of my untamed youth.

5. Thy laws therefore in open place,  
 my lippes shall ever sound:  
 And never faile to shew forth that,  
 to which thou hast mee bound.

6. For in the way of thy precepts,  
 I set my whole delight:  
 No wealth, no treasure of the world,  
 so precious in my sight.

7. What thou command'st I will think on,  
 With diligent respect:  
 And to thy lawes have due regard,  
 for they shall mee protect.

8. In thy precepts O Lord, my soule  
 her whole delight hath set:  
 Thy words therefore more pure than gold,  
 I never will forget.

Source: William Byrd, *Psalmes, Sonets, & songs of sadnes and pietie* (London, 1588), no.4.

Text: Anonymous metrical version of Psalm 119: 9-16

6-12, all voices: *unbridled* only singable as set if the final syllable is pronounced (in the Elizabethan manner) - led rather than the modern - ld. Various printed as *unbridled* and *unbrid'led*, with no apparent difference in required pronunciation.

I.11-12: underlay unclear: *brid* *led* also possible.

Numbering of stanzas above as in all printed sources.