

From all accounts, *Chester* was one of the most popular soldier songs of the Revolution. It was originally published in Billing's *Singing Master's Assistant* in the setting used here for the second verse, with the melody in the tenor. The editors have, following our present usage, placed the melody in the soprano for the first verse, while in the third it is doubled in both soprano and tenor. Billings himself wrote that "a tune so sung (although it has but four parts) is in effect the same as six. Such a conjunction of masculine and feminine voices is beyond expression sweet and ravishing."

The two verses printed below are stanzas two and three of the original text.

Howe and Burgoyne and Clinton, too,

With Prescott and Cornwallis join'd,

Together plot our overthrow,

In one infernal league combined.

When God inspired us for the fight,

Their ranks were broke, their lines were forc'd,

Their Ships were shelter'd in our sight,

Or swiftly driven from our coast.

CHESTER

Original Key

for Full Chorus of Mixed Voices

WILLIAM BILLINGS

(1746-1800)

Edited by

ALICE PARKER and ROBERT SHAW

Almost roughly; with great vigor

SOPRANO
Let ty - rants shake their ir - on rod,

ALTO
Let ty - rants shake their ir - on rod,

TENOR
Let ty - rants shake their ir - on rod,

BASS
Let ty - rants shake their ir - on rod,

PIANO
(for rehearsal only)

Almost roughly; with great vigor

5 And slav - 'ry clank her gall - ing chains,

And slav - 'ry clank her gall - ing chains,

And slav - 'ry clank her gall - ing chains,

And slav - 'ry clank her gall - ing chains,

5

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10

We'll fear them not, we trust in God,

We'll fear them not, we trust in God,

We'll fear them not, we trust in God,

We'll fear them not, we trust in God,

10

15

New Eng-land's God for - ev - er reigns.

New Eng-land's God for - ev - er reigns.

New Eng-land's God for - ev - er reigns.

New Eng-land's God for - ev - er reigns.

15

mf well marked 20

2. The foe comes on with haught - y stride,

mf well marked

2. The foe comes on with haught - y stride,

mf well marked

2. The foe comes on with haught - y stride,

mf well marked

2. The foe comes on with haught - y stride,

mf well marked

20

Our troops ad - vance with mar - tial noise,

Our troops ad - vance with mar - tial noise,

Our troops ad - vance with mar - tial noise,

Our troops ad - vance with mar - tial noise,

25

Their vet - 'rans flee _____ be - fore _____ our youth,
 Their vet - 'rans flee be - fore our youth,
 Their vet - 'rans flee be - fore _____ our youth,
 Their vet - 'rans flee be - fore _____ our youth,

25

30

And gen - 'rals yield to beard - less boys.
 And gen - 'rals yield to beard - less boys.
 And gen - 'rals yield _____ to beard - less boys.
 And gen - 'rals yield _____ to beard - less boys.

30

35

3. What grate - ful of - f'ring shall we bring,

3. What grate - ful of - f'ring shall we bring,

3. What grate - ful of - f'ring shall we bring,

3. What grate - ful of - f'ring shall we bring,

35

p

What shall we ren - der

What shall we ren - der to the Lord?

What shall we ren - der to the Lord?

What shall we ren - der to the Lord?

What shall we ren - der to the Lord?

40

40

Loud Hal - le - lu - jahs

Loud Hal - le - lu jahs let us sing,

Loud Hal - le - lu - jahs let us sing,

Loud Hal - le - lu - jahs

Loud Hal - le - lu jahs let us sing,

Loud Hal - le - lu jahs let us sing

This system contains six vocal staves and two piano accompaniment staves. The vocal parts are arranged in three pairs. The lyrics are: 'Loud Hal - le - lu - jahs', 'Loud Hal - le - lu jahs let us sing,', 'Loud Hal - le - lu - jahs let us sing,', 'Loud Hal - le - lu - jahs', 'Loud Hal - le - lu jahs let us sing,', and 'Loud Hal - le - lu jahs let us sing'. The piano accompaniment consists of a grand staff with treble and bass clefs. A large red watermark 'Preview Only' is overlaid on the right side of the page.

45 And praise His Name on ev - 'ry chord.

And praise His Name on ev - 'ry chord.

And praise His Name on ev - 'ry chord.

And praise His Name on ev - 'ry chord.

And praise His Name on ev - 'ry chord.

45

This system contains six vocal staves and two piano accompaniment staves. The lyrics are: '45 And praise His Name on ev - 'ry chord.', 'And praise His Name on ev - 'ry chord.', 'And praise His Name on ev - 'ry chord.', 'And praise His Name on ev - 'ry chord.', 'And praise His Name on ev - 'ry chord.', and '45'. The piano accompaniment continues with chords. A large red watermark 'Preview Only' is overlaid on the right side of the page.