

How Shall I Sing that Majesty

Third Mode Melody

Thomas Tallis 1515-85

How shall I sing that ma - jes - ty Which an - gels do ad - mire?

Let dust in dust and si - lence lie; Sing, sing, ye heaven - ly choir.

Thou - sands of thou - sands stand a - round Thy throne, O God most high

Ten thou - sand times ten thou - sand sound Thy praise; but who am I?

2. Thy brightness unto them appears,
Whilst I thy footsteps trace;
A sound of God comes to my ears,
But they behold thy face.
They sing because thou art their Sun;
Lord, send a beam on me;
For where heaven is but once begun
There alleluys be.

3. Enlighten with faith's light my heart,
Inflame it with love's fire;
Then shall I sing and bear a part
With that celestial choir.
I shall, I fear, be dark and cold,
With all my fire and light;
Yet when thou dost accept their gold,
Lord, treasure up my mite.

4. How great a being, Lord, is thine,
Which doth all beings keep!
Thy knowledge is the only line
To sound so vast a deep.
Thou art a sea without a shore,
A sun without a sphere;
Thy time is now and evermore,
Thy place is everywhere.