

THOMAS TALLIS, ARR. HUGH LEVEY





SCORE & PARTS

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If Ye Love Me

THOMAS TALLIS

If Ye Love Me is a beautiful 16th Century motet, written by one of England's finest Renaissance period composers, Thomas Tallis. At first sight, its title might suggest a secular topic of romantic love, but it is in fact a religious text taken from John 14 in the Bible.

> If ye love me, keep my commandments. **PR And will prov the Fathers** and he shall give you another comforter, that he may 'bide with you forever; E'en the sp'rit of truth.

Although it was first published during the reign of Elizabeth I in 1565, we know it was written before 1550 when it first appeared in the Wanley partbooks manuscript. This was during the reign of Elizabeth's father Henry VIII who had broken away from the Catholic church to form the Church of England, mandating that all services should be held in English rather than Latin. Thomas Tallis was one of the first composers to write sacred music in English, of which this is a fine example.

Duration: 2 minutes

PERFORMANCE NOTES

Although it may appear simple at first sight, this is a beautifully crafted piece. Tallis's vocal part writing is superb. To reflect this, the arranger has taken care to show the phrasing of each part as it overlaps the others. It should be played with gentle legato tonguing and each part's phrases should rise and fall in line with the dynamic markings. Do not underestimate the beauty and subtlety of this piece.

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