

Cædmon's Hymn

Stef Conner, 2019
For two voices and 6-string medieval lyre
Duration: c. 3'

Lyre tuning:



Improvised strummed lyre accompaniment mainly comprises alternating open 5ths on the modal *finalis* (D) and tone below (C).

Text and Translation

The text is from collated from various documents of Bede's Ecclesiastical History of the English People.

Old English text edited by Stef Conner.

Translation reproduced from: Craig Williamson (2017), *The Complete Old English Poems*, reprinted by kind permission of the University of Pennsylvania Press.

Cædmon's Hymn

*Nū scylun herġan heofonrīces Weard,
meotodes mehte ond his mōdġeþanc,
weorc Wuldorfædur, swā hē wundra ġehwæs,
ēce Drihten, ōr onstealde.
Hē ærest scōp eorðan bearnum
heofon tō hrōfe, hāleġ Scyppend.
Þā middangeard monncynnes Weard,
ēce Drihten, æfter tēode
fīrum foldan. Frēa ælmehtig.*

Now let us praise the Creator and Guardian
Of the heavenly kingdom, his power and purpose,
His mind and might, his wondrous works.
He shaped each miraculous beginning,
Each living creature, each earthly kind.
He first made for the children of men
Heaven as a roof. Then our holy Shaper
Crafted middle-earth, a home for mankind:
Our God and Guardian watching over us—
Eternal, almighty—our Lord and King.

Caedmon's Hymn

Version 3 (for 2 voices) July 2019

Sing twice:
1st time: 1 voice
2nd time: 2 voices

STEF CONNER

mf 2nd voice echoes each half-line

Nū scu - lun her - gan heo - fon - rī - ces Weard,
meo - to - des meah - te ond his mōd ge - þanc,
weorc Wul - dor - fæ - dur, swā hē wun - dra ge - hwæs,
ē - ce Drih - ten, ōr on - steal - de.
Hē ær - est scōp eor - ðan bear - num
heo - fon tō hrō - fe, hāl - leg Scyp - pend.
Þā mid - dan - gearð monn - cyn - nes Weard,
ē - ce Drih - ten, æf - ter tēo - de
fir - um fol - dan, Frea æl meh - tig.

echo ends after 'fædur' 1st voice only

1st voice: normal note heads
2nd voice: small note heads