

CANONS

The levels of difficulty are from 1 (easy) to 5 (difficult). Each piece bears a number. A title bearing an asterisk indicates that a recording is available upon request. A plus or minus following a work such as EASY, either raises or lowers the difficulty.

BROTHERS in SINGING (TTBB / large and small shell drums or tambourines / large and small suspended cymbals / optional piccolo) is a fresh, new processional for men's chorus. Marching to the stage to begin a concert enables the audience to feel that it is a part of what is about to happen on stage. The hand-held percussion instruments and distinct vocal entries of this five-voice canon keep the interest in the sound intact. When on stage, the conductor will signal for all parts to abandon their current positions in the canon and skip directly to the homophonic climax at the end. WD

Brothers in singing are joined in their souls.
They forever remember, with pride,
 when they march on together in friendship and honor.
They know their songs lift up others who listen intently to the
 finest in music that great masters have
 written since history unfolded and blessed all mankind with their
 glorious creations and beautiful poems made for men who love to
 join as brothers in singing. WD

The range is c#–C#1. (duration indefinite) #1 VERY EASY

MINOR MASTERPIECE, A is for 3 to 5 voices. It was written by Franz Joseph Haydn and arranged by Wallace De Pue, Sr. Of all the canons ever written, this Austrian masterpiece is one of the loveliest.

“No one can know how I feel;
 no one can know the sorrow in my heart ‘til I sing a song in a minor key.”

The text appears both in English and in German. For use in church, the last line of English words may be

“No one can know the sorrow in my heart ‘til I sing of Christ on the cursed tree.”

This work may employ any combination of voices. The bass obbligato should be done only on the final repetition. Cue-sized notes are employed for range considerations. (2:00 minimum) #2 EASY

***PRAISE YE THE LORD** (3-part) is a marvelous processional canon for any voice combination. One of Germany's great composers, Georg Phillip Telemann, wrote this piece, and Wallace De Pue arranged it. As an anthem in church or as a concert piece, this work is excellent. As a processional, it has few peers. Both English and German texts are present. This piece is one of Alfred Publishing's best sellers. The order number may be SV8926.

Praise ye the Lord! O praise the Lord!
With all my heart will I praise Him.
While I shall live, I want to praise the Lord with all my heart, and glorify His name.
Praise ye the Lord! O praise the Lord and glorify His name!

The range is from C1–e2. (1:52, once through) #2 EASY

***SING DEM HERRN** (5-voice canon) is published by Alfred Publishing, P.O.Box 10003, Van Nuys, CA - 91410-0003 - Phone: (818) 891.5999); its order number may be SV8640. It may be ordered by title. Michael Praetorius composed this canon for 2 to 5 voices in any combination, and Wallace De Pue arranged it. Both English and German texts are present. As a processional, this piece is tops! It is a "best seller," and was adopted by the Men's Chorus of Bowling Green State University as its traditional processional.). It may be ordered by title. The English text is:

Sing to the Lord, Alleluia!
We all love Him.
Praise to His name! Sing it with timbrel and harp!
Sing to the Lord, Alleluia!
Amen.

The range is (d–D1)- duration indefinite- #2 EASY

KELSEY'S CANON (3-voice canon) may be used as a complete anthem or as an introit or response in church. The music is as simple as the rhythm that fills it. There must be *rubato* to supply sufficient movement of the melodic line. The effect of this canon is so lovely because of the worshipful atmosphere that the music creates.

Thank you, Lord, in heaven above for your all embracing love.
Thank you for our bread today. Thanks for listening while we pray.
Thank you, Lord, in every way, for everyone we love. WD

The range is D1–e2 (3:30) #1 VERY EASY

(**SEE CHRISTMAS MUSIC for MORE CANONS**)