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Tell the Praise

Five hymns with
descants by Christopher Gower

ENCORE
publications

For Simon Toyne, marking his 50th birthday

The five descants in this collection have been set to his favourite hymns.
Simon is Executive Director of Music for the David Ross Educational Trust.

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS
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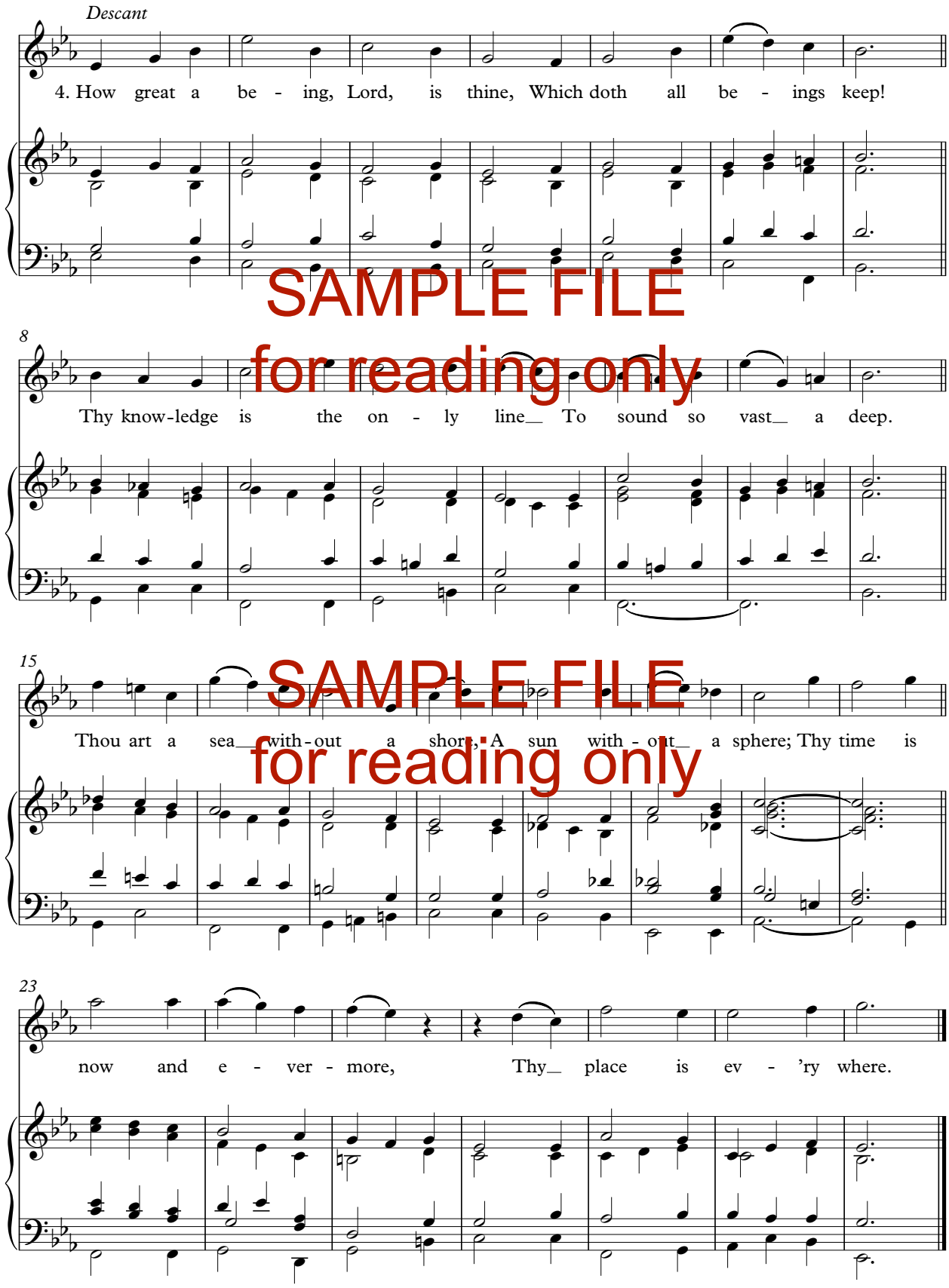
Nos. 1–5 Descants by Christopher Gower, published by Encore Publications

1. How shall I sing the majesty

COE FEN

Kenneth Naylor (1931–91)
Descant by Christopher Gower

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How shall I sing that majesty
  Which angels do admire?
Let dust in dust and silence lie;
  Sing, sing, ye heavenly choir.
Thousands of thousands stand around
  Thy throne, O God most high;
Ten thousand times ten thousand sound
  Thy praise; but who am I?

2 The 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 alleluyas be.

3 Enlighten with faith's light my heart,
  Inflame it with love's fire;
The 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 everymore,
Thy place is everywhere.

JOHN MASON (c. 1645–94)