

**Psalm 67**  
by  
Charles Ives

SATB with Organ Accompaniment  
General

Charles Ives wrote *Psalm 67* in the 1890s for two unaccompanied choirs, SSAA and TTBB, singing in two different keys simultaneously. His younger contemporaries Henry Cowell and Sidney Robertson Cowell describe the effect as “mysterious grandeur.” Among his numerous Psalm settings, Ives wrote, his father regarded *Psalm 67* as “the best for singing in church.”

Given the extraordinary complexities of his piece, however, we cannot be surprised that even Ives “had difficulty in the New Haven choirs” when he asked them to sing it. For smaller church choirs today the difficulties are prohibitive, and many churches must be denied this numinous musical offering.

With this arrangement I hope to make *Psalm 67* accessible to non-professional church choirs. I have divided two climactic measures into SATB. For the remainder of the anthem the choir sings in unison while the organ preserves the full richness of Ives’ polytonal harmonies.

The structure of the original anthem is ABA, with a concluding benediction in the style of Anglican chant. I have omitted the B section—a fiercely difficult fugal outburst expressive of the text “O let the nations be glad and sing for joy....” The two outer sections and the benediction seem me to retain textual integrity and musical coherence, and to evoke the mystery and grandeur of Ives’ original.

Albert Blackwell  
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# Psalm 67

Charles Ives (1874-1954)

arr. Albert Blackwell

**Andante maestoso**  
[♩ = 68] *mf*

Women

Men

Organ

God be mer - ci - ful un - to us, and bless us; and

Detailed description: This system contains the first five measures of the piece. The Women's part is in a soprano clef, the Men's part in a bass clef, and the Organ part in grand staff. The tempo is marked 'Andante maestoso' with a quarter note equal to 68 beats per minute. The dynamics are marked 'mf'. The lyrics are 'God be mer - ci - ful un - to us, and bless us; and'.

6

6

cause his face to shine up - on us; that thy way may be known up - on

Detailed description: This system contains measures 6 through 10. The Women's part continues with the lyrics 'cause his face to shine up - on us; that thy way may be known up - on'. The Organ part provides harmonic accompaniment. Measure numbers 6 are indicated at the start of the Women's and Organ staves.

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10 *[crescendo]*

earth, thy sav - ing health a - mong all na - tions. Let the peo - ple

14 O God. *[f]* *[mf]*

praise thee, O God. Let all the peo - ple praise thee. Then shall the

18

earth yield her in - crease; and God, e - ven - our own God,

18

22 *(chanted)*

shall bless us. God shall bless us; and all the ends of the earth shall fear Him.

22