Thanks Be to Thee

SATB, Solo Voice, Cello, and Organ
New Year’s Day, General

The music of this anthem is commonly attributed to George Frideric Handel (1685-1759), but this attribution has been traced back no earlier than the late 19th century.

The first to join this music with a text beginning with the words “Thanks be to thee” appears to have been Siegfried Ochs (1858-1929). Since then a multitude of arrangements have appeared, with wide variations in both music and lyric. No matter, I think. The anthem is a work of Handel-like dignity.

Why yet another version here? Many arrangements seem to me cluttered with elaborations of romantic harmony, interjections of distracting interludes, and the like. I have sought to keep the anthem simple, in accord with its innate poise and nobility, which the cello seems handsomely suited to express.

I am not aware of many anthems dedicated to New Year’s Day, so I have modified traditional versions of the lyric to express thanksgiving for God's guidance “in safety to another year.”

Albert Blackwell
January 16, 2012
Thanks Be to Thee

Attributed to G. F. Handel
Arr. Albert Blackwell

Unison Voices

Organ

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Unison Voices

Thanks be to Thee

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thee, O Lord, our God.

Thou hast thy flock guided in peace, in safety to another
Like a good shepherd thou dost restore us. Lord, thy right hand
lead enh us with in the paths of

right eous ness.

Thanks be to
thee, O_ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ Lord, our

God. Thou hast thy flock guided in

peace, in safety to another
year.

rit.
Thanks Be to Thee
(Cello)

Attributed to G. F. Handel
Arr. Albert Blackwell

In safety to another

righteousness.

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