

Through North and South

Canon in 4 voices

♩ = c.108 - 126

1.
Through north and south and east and west,

2.
May God's im - mor - tal name be blest.

3.
Till ev' - ry where be - neath the sun,

4.
His king - dom comes, his will is done.

Composer Biography

William Billings lived and worked in Boston, MA, and among his friends were many prominent figures of the American Revolution, including Samuel Adams and Paul Revere. Although he was a self-taught musician, Billings's compositions (hymns, anthems, psalms, and fusing tunes) are an integral part of the American folk tradition, particularly noted for their rhythmic vitality, freshness, and straightforward harmonies.

Source:

This tune was originally published in Billings' *The New England Psalm-Singer* (1770). As was often the case with collections of the period, the tune was originally without a text, and was titled "A Canon of 4 in 1". This text was paired with Billings' Canon in the mid-20th century.

Conductor notes:

This jubilant canon should, ideally, be sung in a moderate "one" (one beat per bar), adding a slight emphasis to the down beat of each measure. Be careful not to rush the tempo, and give equal care and rhythmic integrity to the dotted eighth-sixteenth notes in the fourth line. Breaths should be taken at the ends of lines, and not in the middle.

Text: Anonymous

Tune: William Billings (1746-1800)