

# SAMUEL SEBASTIAN WESLEY (1810-76)

## Towards a Bibliography of his Church Music

by Watkins Shaw

### Introduction.

While I am certainly not an expert in the music of S. S. Wesley I have unexpectedly found myself dealing with it in this year of the centenary of his death. I was surprised to discover that, so far as I could tell, no authoritative list of his church music existed, and to provide myself with some foundation material I set to work to make one to the best of my ability in the short period available. For what it may be worth, and provisional as it must be, this is printed below as a small contribution to Wesley studies. It takes no account of his hymn tunes and chants.

I have added notes on dates and successive publications so far as this information, however incomplete or uncertain, has come my way, in the hope that the list may thus serve as a step not only towards a proper listing of Wesley's church music, but also towards establishing its chronology and textual history. The last is a difficult problem, not only because of Wesley's carelessness in writing and his inadequate proof-reading, but because it is evident that he revised his works, making it necessary for us to know the sequence, if not the exact dates, of the appearance of successive editions.

### Abbreviations and sigla.

MT — *The Musical Times*.

RCM — Parry Room Library, Royal College of Music.

Vocal resources are shown thus: *Capital* letters for full choir (e.g., SATTB), *small* letters for solos and verses (e.g., s, atb, b).

\* Date from periodical announcements in MT of Novello's publications for the preceding month.

† Date from a list of Wesley's music already in Novello's catalogue by May 1868, MT, vol. 13 (1867-9), p. 395.

§ Date from information in C. Humphries and W. C. Smith, *Music Publishing in the British Isles* (London, 1954), having regard to the address(es) given in Novello's imprint.

### Notes.

(A) The NO-IMPRINT ISSUE. This term is a title of convenience invented by me for a printed issue consisting of 'O Lord, thou art my God', 'The Wilderness', and an incomplete work, 'To my request and earnest cry'. The title of the whole is ANTHEMS, /—By—/ Samuel Sebastian Wesley, /which is executed in Gothic lettering apparently stencilled in outline, a feature of significance to be alluded to later. There is no publisher's, printer's, or engraver's name. Each piece is paged separately, and there is no pagination for the issue as a whole. Copies survive at St. Michael's College, Tenbury Wells, Worcs., and at Leeds Parish Church. I suggest the background to this may have been as follows:

In its issue for 15 October 1840 *The Musical World* (vol. 14, p. 252) carries an announcement of *Six Anthems* by Wesley, 'just published' at one guinea and a half, and prints a list of subscribers to 122 copies, headed by the Queen Dowager, with an explanation that the subscription price is more than had at first been intended. Already, in an earlier issue (8 Oct.), this journal had begun a review, not (be it noted) under the title of *Six Anthems* but of *Anthems* by S. S. W. The review was continued on 15 Oct. and 29 Oct., giving a detailed account of the first two anthems ('O God [*recte* Lord], thou art my God' and 'The Wilderness') but unfortunately telling us not so much as the titles of the remaining four. Moreover, though a continuation of the review in a future issue was promised, no more appeared.

It is very extraordinary that not a single copy of this album of *Six Anthems* by Wesley is known today. The only explanation I can think of—which is in itself extraordinary—is that the 'No-imprint Issue' represents specimen pages issued as a preliminary to the intended *Six Anthems*; that the review in *The Musical World* was begun from those specimen pages; that the announcement of *Six Anthems* was imprudently premature; and that for some reason this was never published.

Nothing more was done for some time about publishing a collection of Wesley's anthems, though in a letter to R. A. Atkins, organist of St Asaph Cathedral, dated 5 August 1848 and now belonging to the University of Edinburgh, he writes,

I am completing a set of Anthems for Cathedral Services, *original* Anthems. Do you think I could get your subscription for a set of 8 copies at 25 shillings a copy? If two thirds of the Cathedrals favour me with their subscriptions, I shall publish.

This probably adumbrates the appearance of the album discussed in note (B)



(B) TWELVE ANTHEMS. Again a title of convenience invented by me to cover a collection of twelve anthems issued in three forms, presumably in the following order:

(i) An album in score published by Arthur Hall, Virtue and Co., 25 Paternoster Row, London. No specimen of this album as such appears to have survived, but its existence is sufficiently attested by extant separate copies of 'The Wilderness', 'Blessed be the God and Father', and 'O Lord, my God' published by that firm and carrying a double pagination, one applicable to separate issues, the other to a collected album. Moreover, each of these separate copies has a common cover with the title 'ANTHEMS/BY/SAMUEL SEBASTIAN WESLEY./Vol. 1' followed by a numerical list of twelve anthems. We do not know the date of this publication, for though the cover carries the legend 'Copyright Works', no entry is found in the index to the Registers of Stationers' Hall. It was on sale as late as 1861 (see Hall, Virtue's advertisement in 'Praise the Lord, O my Soul' of that year); nevertheless, common sense suggests it antedates (ii) and (iii) below.

(ii) Wesley himself also issued separate voice parts of these twelve anthems (each voice part containing all twelve works) in lithographic form with printed cover listing them in the same sequence as (i) above. A set of parts, lacking the tenor, is at the RCM. Inside the cover is an announcement of 'Original Anthems in score by Dr S. S. Wesley . . . Second Edition . . . at Subscriber's Terms'. In spite of some difference in the title, this seems to point towards (iii) below.

(iii) The well known album in score of 'Anthems/BY/SAMUEL SEBASTIAN WESLEY./VOL 1', the title within an engraved oval, with the imprint 'London, Addison and Hollier, 210, Regent Street. [J.A.] Novello, Dean Street, Soho, and Broadway, New York.' The twelve anthems it contains are the same, and in the same sequence, as (i) and (ii) above. The dedication to Thomas Garnier, Dean of Winchester, is dated 1853 and the publication must have appeared by October 1854 when the British Museum acquired its copy. There is an overall pagination of the volume and a separate pagination for each item. In the complete form this publication consists of title-page, dedication, index, contents (words of the anthems), subsidiary title-page identical in every detail with the title-page of the 'No-imprint issue' (a curious link), 259 pages of music, subscribers' list, and a page of advertisements; there should also be an errata slip, and a slip containing the names of additional subscribers, including Sir Frederick Ouseley. This, then, seems to be the subscribers' issue, or second edition, advertised in (ii) above. Although both (i) and (iii) are designated 'Vol 1', no further volume appeared.

## I. SERVICES

1. A MORNING [COMMUNION] AND EVENING CATHEDRAL SERVICE [IN E]. The Creed composed for boys' voices and organ, 1835-40; adapted for full choir and the remainder of the Service composed 1841-5.  
(See note in RCM MS 4039, and the published Preface to the Service.)
  - (a) Chappell's. folio. [1845].  
*The title-page of copies of this edition was signed by the composer's patron, Martin Cawood.*
  - (b) Sold by [J.A.] Novello, 69 Dean Street and Foster & King, 16 Hanover Street. §Before 1861. folio, from same plates as (a), now bearing the No. 6697, but with a new title-page (signed by Martin Cawood) and omitting the Preface.
  - (c) Novello, Ewer & Co., 1 Berners Street & 35 Poultry. §1867-76. folio, using Plates No. 6697, as for (b).
2. A SHORT FULL [MORNING, COMMUNION, AND EVENING] SERVICE IN F. Composed c. 1864-66 (see note in RCM MS 4039).
  - (a) Autograph MS, Hereford Cathedral Library. R.10.xviii (N.B. This does not date from Wesley's Hereford period.)
  - (b) Novello, Ewer & Co., 1 Berners Street and 35 Poultry. \*August 1869. folio, Plate No. 4277.
3. [MORNING AND EVENING] CHANT SERVICE IN F. The Evening Service composed at Leeds (see note in RCM MS 4039).
  - (a) Arthur Hall, Virtue & Co., 25 Paternoster Row . . . also at [J.A.] Novello's 69 Dean Street. §Before 1861. folio.
  - (b) Novello, Ewer & Co. †Not later than May 1868. 8vo.
4. [MORNING AND EVENING] CHANT SERVICE IN F, LETTER 'B'.  
Novello, Ewer & Co. \*Dec. 1869. 8vo.
5. [MORNING AND EVENING] SERVICE IN G. Composed 1868-72 (see note in RCM MS 4039).
  - (a) Nos 730-33 of *The European Psalmist*, 1872.
  - (b) Novello, Ewer & Co. \*Jan. 1874 (from the Plates of *The European Psalmist*).
6. BENEDICITE OMNIA OPERA IN D [CHANT FORM].  
This had reached its 5th Thousand before Wesley's death, two copies of the '4th Thousand' corrected in readiness by the composer being at RCM. 8vo.



7. GLORY BE TO GOD ON HIGH. 'Written quite early. Published or re-published late' (see note in RCM MS 4039). C major, designed for use in Communion Service.

- (a) Novello, Ewer & Co., 1 Berners Street and 35 Poultry. [1869]. folio, Plate No. 4189.  
(b) Novello's 8vo Anthems No. 2. \*January 1869.

8. KYRIE IN F. No. 623 of *The European Psalmist*, 1872.

9. KYRIE IN F SHARP MINOR. No. 617 of *The European Psalmist*, 1872.

10. SANCTUS IN D. No. 616 of *The European Psalmist*, 1872.

11. SANCTUS IN F. No. 622 of *The European Psalmist*, 1872.

Though not Services, the following two items setting liturgical texts are mentioned here for the sake of completeness. (i) 'Glory be to God on high', RCM MS 4030, consisting of those words followed by a long contrapuntal 'Amen'. (ii) 'Benedictus qui venit' in F minor for SATB and orchestra, RCM MSS 4030, 4034. (MS 4030 is in the composer's hand.)

## II. ANTHEMS

1. ALL GO UNTO ONE PLACE. Composed 1861 on the occasion of the death of the Prince Consort. SATB.

- (a) Hall, Virtue & Co., 25 Paternoster Row, also [J.A.] Novello, 69 Dean Street. 'Entered at Stationers Hall'. §1861. folio.  
(b) Reprinted from the same plates (un-numbered) as (a) by Novello & Co., †before May 1868.

2. ASCRIBE UNTO THE LORD. SATB/ssa, attb, satb.

- (a) 'Twelve Anthems'. See Note (B) above.  
(b) Wesley scored the organ part for orchestra for performance at the Gloucester Three Choirs Festival of 1865. His autograph of this is now RCM MS 4034, ff. 1-20, followed by a fair copy, ff. 21-54.  
(c) Novello & Co., 69 Dean Street and 35 Poultry, and Virtue & Co., No. 1, Amen Corner. §Nov. 1861-1867. folio, Plate No. 3463.  
(d) Novello's 8vo Anthems No. 109. \*July 1874.

*Blessed are they.* SATB/satb. See No. 19

3. BLESSED BE THE GOD AND FATHER. Composed for Easter Day, 1834 or 5. SSATB/s.

- (a) Outline autograph draft, Hereford Cathedral Library, C.9.xii, pp. 80-91. See *MT*, vol. 41 (1900), pp. 522-4.

- (b) 'Twelve Anthems'. See Note (B) above.

- (c) Hall, Virtue & Co., 25 Paternoster Row, and may be ordered of [J.A.] Novello, 69 Dean Street. §Not later than 1861, and probably several years earlier. folio.

- (d) Separate voice parts, Novello. \*Aug. 1867.

- (e) Novello's 8vo Anthems No. 15. Probably before Wesley's death.

4. BLESSED BE THE LORD GOD OF ISRAEL. SATB.

Novello, Ewer & Co. \*Dec. 1868, issued simultaneously both in folio (Plate No. 4152) with parts (Plate No. 4153), and as *MT* Supplement No. 310.

5. BLESSED IS THE MAN UNTO WHOM THE LORD IMPUTETH NO SIN. ATTB.

No. 729 of *The European Psalmist*, 1872.

6. BLESSED IS THE MAN THAT FEARETH THE LORD. SATTB.

No. 2 of 'Three Intros'. Novello, posthumous publication. 8vo. The date of composition is given as 'before 1847', but the copy in the RCM has been amended by F. G. Wesley, the composer's son, to read 'about 1849'.

7. BY THE WORD OF THE LORD. Composed for the opening of the new organ in Winchester Cathedral, 1854. SATTB/satb.

Survives incomplete in the form of a vocal score with staves left blank for the organ part and some gaps endorsed in pencil as for instance 'Treble Solo' or '4 Bars, I think, of Symphony'. RCM MS 4030, ff. 81-95, partly autograph.

8. CAST ME NOT AWAY. Said to have been written while recovering from an accident which Wesley sustained near Helmsley, Yorks, on 23 Dec. 1847. SSATTB.

- (a) 'Twelve Anthems'. See Note(B) above.

- (b) Novello, Ewer & Co., 1 Berners Street & 35 Poultry. \*March 1870. folio, score (Plate No. 4331) and parts.

*For this mortal shall put on.* SSATB. See No. 23.

9. GIVE THE KING THY JUDGMENTS. Composed 1863 on the occasion of the wedding of the Prince of Wales. SAATTB.

- (a) Autograph MS from which (b) below was engraved. RCM MS 4032, ff. 12-23v.

- (b) Novello, Ewer & Co., 1 Berners Street and 35 Poultry. \*March 1870. folio, score (Plate No. 4331) and parts.

10. GOD BE MERCIFUL UNTO US. According to a note in RCM MS 4039, this was written at Gloucester. SATB/satb.

- (a) Novello, Ewer & Co., 1 Berners Street and 35 Poultry. §†1867-8. folio, (Plate No. 3734).

- (b) Novello's 8vo Anthems No. 49. \*Jan. 1872.



11 HEAR THOU IN HEAVEN. SATTB.

No. 3 of 'Three Introits'. Novello, posthumous publication. 8vo. For date, see No. 6 above.

12. I AM THINE, O SAVE ME. SATTB.

- (a) *The Musical Remembrancer*, March 1857. folio.
- (b) Novello, Ewer & Co. \*Oct. 1870. folio (Plate No. 4485).

13. I WILL ARISE. SATB.

- (a) No. 724 of *The European Psalmist*, 1872.
- (b) Novello, Ewer & Co. \*Feb. 1874. 8vo.

[*I will magnify thee*]. Stated by M. B. Foster, *Anthems and Anthem Composers*, London, 1901, to be mentioned in a Chester Cathedral anthem word-book.

14. I WILL WASH MY HANDS IN INNOCENCY. SATB.

No. 1 of 'Three Introits'. Novello, posthumous publication. 8vo. For date, see No. 6.

*Lead me, Lord.* SATB/s,a. See No. 24.

15. LET US LIFT UP OUR HEART. SSAATTBB/satb,b.

- (a) 'Twelve Anthems'. See Note (B) above.
- (b) Novello, Ewer & Co., 1 Berners Street and 35 Poultry. \*March 1870. folio (Plate No. probably 4331—see Nos. 8, 9, and 18).  
(*The organ accompaniment to this anthem was scored for orchestra by Elgar and performed at the Worcester Three Choirs Festival in 1923.*)

16. LET US NOW PRAISE FAMOUS MEN. SATB/satb,t.

- (a) Novello, Ewer & Co./Weekes. 'Collegiate Series', No. 14, 1874. 8vo. Edition 'A' (an easier setting than Edition 'B' below).
- (b) Novello, Ewer & Co. 1 Berners Street and 35 Poultry. \*Feb. 1876. Edition 'B'. folio (no Plate No.). *Marked proof at RCM.*

17. LORD OF ALL POWER AND MIGHT. SATB.

*The Practical Choirmaster*, March 1873 (Metzler & Co.).  
(*I have not traced a copy of this. A more recent edition was published by Bayley & Ferguson.*)

18. MAN THAT IS BORN OF A WOMAN. According to a note in RCM MS 4039, this was written at Leeds. SATB.

- (a) 'Twelve Anthems'. See Note (B) above.
- (b) Novello, Ewer & Co., 1 Berners Street and 35 Poultry. \*March 1870. folio, score (Plate No. 4331) and parts.

19. O GIVE THANKS UNTO THE LORD. SATTB/s,satb.

- (a) 'Twelve Anthems'. See Note (B) above.
- (b) Novello, Ewer & Co., 1 Berners Street and 35 Poultry. \*March 1870. folio, score (Plate No. probably 4331—see Nos. 8, 9, and 18). and parts.
- (c) Novello's 8vo Anthems No. 66. \*June 1872.

20. O GOD, WHOSE NATURE AND PROPERTY. SATB.

- (a) William Hawes. c. 1831.
- (b) Autograph transcript, Hereford Cathedral Library, C.9.xii, pp. 92-6.
- (c) Novello, Ewer & Co. \*Oct. 1870. folio (Plate No. 4486). *Marked proof at RCM.*

21. O HOW AMIABLE. SATB.

Novello, Ewer & Co/Weekes. 'Collegiate Series', No. 18, 1874. 8vo.

22. O LORD MY GOD ('Solomon's Prayer'). SATB.

- (a) 'Twelve Anthems'. See Note (B) above.
- (b) Hall, Virtue & Co., Paternoster Row and may be ordered . . . of [J.A.] Novello, 69 Dean Street. §Not later than 1861, and probably several years earlier. folio.
- (c) Novello & Co. MT Supplement No. 314. April 1869.

23. O LORD, THOU ART MY GOD. An exercise for the degree of D.MUS. OXON. 1839, but composed c. 1836 (*The Musical World*, 8 Oct. 1840, p.232). SSAATTBB/b, ssatb.

- (a) 'No-imprint Issue'. See Note (A) above.
- (b) 'Twelve Anthems'. See Note (B) above.
- (c) Novello, Ewer & Co. \*March 1870. folio, score (probably Plate No. 4331—see Nos. 8, 9, and 18) and parts.

*O worship the Lord.* ssaa. See No. 2.

24. PRAISE THE LORD, O MY SOUL. Composed 1861 for the opening of the organ in Holy Trinity Church, Winchester. SATB/ssatb,a,s.

- (a) Hall, Virtue & Co., 25 Paternoster Row . . . and to be ordered . . . of [J.A.] Novello & Co., 69 Dean Street. With subscribers list. 1861. folio.
- (b) Novello, Ewer & Co., from the same plates as (a) but with a modified heading. †Before May 1868.
- (c) Novello's 8vo Anthems No. 59. \*Jan. 1872.

25. THE FACE OF THE LORD. SSATTB/ssaatbb.

- (a) 'Twelve Anthems'. See Note (B) above.
- (b) Novello, Ewer & Co., 1 Berners Street and 35 Poultry. \*March 1870. folio (score probably Plate No. 4331—see Nos. 8, 9, and 18) and parts.

*The Lord hath been mindful.* SATB/satb. See No. 2.



26. THE LORD IS MY SHEPHERD. SATB/s,b.

Novello, Ewer & Co./Weekes. 'Collegiate Series', No. 40. 1875. 8vo.

*The Lord redeemed the soul.* SSATB. See No. 25

27. THE WILDERNESS. Composed 1832 for the opening of the organ in Hereford Cathedral; subsequently unsuccessfully submitted for the Gresham Prize. SSATB/satb, b, t, ssatb.

- (a) Autograph score, Hereford Cathedral Library, C.9.xii, pp. 52-73, dated 1834.
- (b) 'No-imprint Issue'. See Note (A) above.
- (c) Organ accompaniment scored for orchestra for the Birmingham Festival, 1852. Autograph MS, RCM MS 4030, ff. 1-21v.
- (d) 'Twelve Anthems'. See Note (B) above.
- (e) 'New Edition', Hall, Virtue & Co., 25 Paternoster Row . . . also by [J.A.] Novello, 69 Dean Street. §Not later than 1861, and probably several years earlier. folio. *A copy marked by Wesley is at the RCM.*
- (f) Novello's 8vo Anthems No. 110. \*July 1874.

28. THOU WILT KEEP HIM IN PERFECT PEACE. SATTB.

- (a) 'Twelve Anthems'. See Note (B) above.
- (b) Hall, Virtue & Co., 25 Paternoster Row . . . copies may be ordered . . . of Novello & Co., 69 Dean Street. 'Entered at Stationers Hall'. §Not earlier than 1861. folio.
- (c) Novello's 8vo Anthems No. 107. \*July 1874.

*Thou judge of quick and dead.* SATB. See No. 15.

29. TO MY REQUEST. SATB/b (incomplete).

'No-imprint Issue'. See Note (A) above.  
*The opening movement, adapted by Bairstow, was published as MT Supplement No. 758, April 1906.*

[*Trust ye in the Lord*]. Stated by M. B. Foster, op.cit., to have been in MS at Exeter Cathedral.

30. WASH ME THOROUGHLY. SATB/s.

- (a) 'Twelve Anthems'. See Note (B) above.
- (b) Novello & Co., 69 Dean Street and Messrs. Virtue, Ivy Lane. §Not earlier than 1861. folio.

31. WHEREWITHAL SHALL A YOUNG MAN. SATB/s or t.

Novello, Ewer & Co./Weekes. 'Collegiate Series', No. 19, 1875. 8vo.

### III. APPENDIX

'Almighty God, give us grace', 'Blessed Lord, who hast caused', and 'O Lord Jesu Christ' are adaptations by J. F. Bridge of solos entitled *Sacred Songs, the Collects for the first three Sundays in Advent*.

'The Bruised Reed' is a sacred song, in C. D. Hackett's *National Psalmist*, 1839.

'Glory be to God on high' is designed for use with Communion Services, though often classed as an anthem.

'O remember not' is a duet by Samuel Wesley with a few extra bars added by S. S. Wesley for SATB.

'Thou, O God, art praised in Sion' is by Samuel Wesley, edited by S. S. Wesley.

*Postscript.* The whereabouts of Elgar's orchestral score for 'Let us lift up our heart' is at present unknown. Elgar offered it to Messrs. Novello, who considered it inappropriate to accept (as Jerrold Moore has been kind enough to tell me) because at that time the anthem was not in their current catalogue, and the 'Three Choirs' chorus sang from the edition of a different publisher.