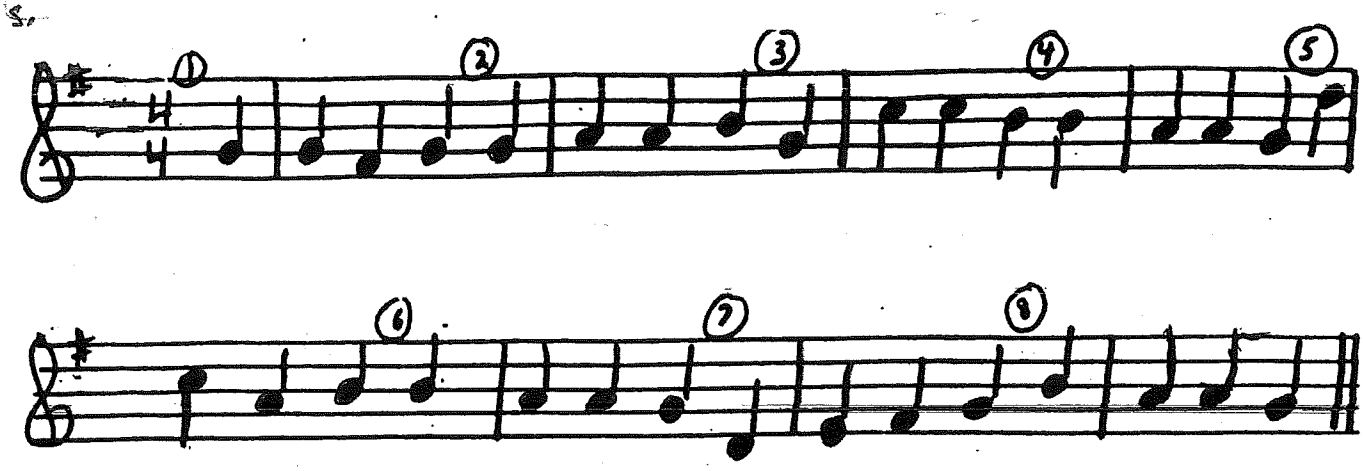
Tallis' Canon

Vns.



Direct, control, suggest this day all I design or do or say,
that all my powers, with all their might, in thy sole glory may unite.

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise him, all creatures here below;
praise him above, ye heavenly host: praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

Thomas Ken, c. 1670, 1709, alt.

Bishop Thomas Ken published a *Manual of Prayers* in 1674, for use by the boys at Winchester College in southern England, in which the note appeared: "Be sure to sing the Morning and Evening Hymn in your chamber devoutly." These hymns were first published in the 1695 edition of the manual, and revised by Ken in a 1709 edition.

Words
Ken, Thomas
(b. July, 1637, Berkhampstead, Herts, England;
d. Mar. 19, 1711, Warminster, Wilts)

This hymn and its twin "All Praise to Thee, My God, This Night" (no. 361) first appeared in Thomas Ken's *Manual of Prayers* for the boys at the Winchester Cathedral school. Bishop Ken, who served the English kings Charles II, James II, and William III during his lifetime, was, for 10 years, the chaplain of Winchester Cathedral.

During morning prayers at 5 a.m. the students had been required to sing a Latin hymn. When Ken came to the cathedral, he provided the boys with this English hymn of 12 stanzas. Ten of the 12 are printed in *Hymns and the Faith* by Erik Routley. The five printed here include the "doxology" stanza—the most-often sung hymn stanza in nonliturgical, English-language churches.

Consistent with the thought expressed in Psalm 19, the imagery of the hymn text deals with nature—the sun, the light of heaven, and the morning dew. Its practical points deal with the specifics of a schoolboy's life—duty and the temptation of "dull sloth."

For all—young and old—who now read or sing this hymn, it is a straightforward prayer that God would guard their thought and will through the day, filling their spirits with his.

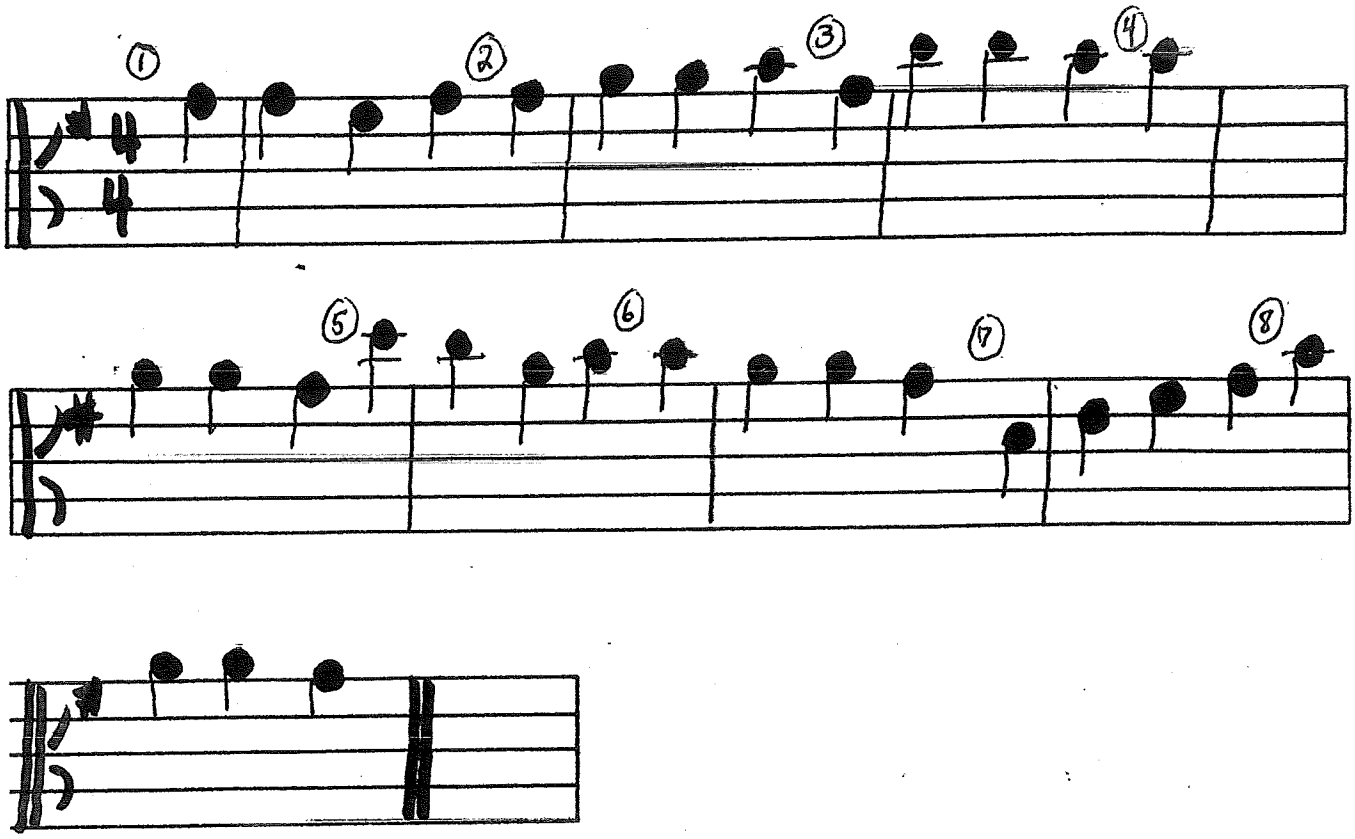
W. L.

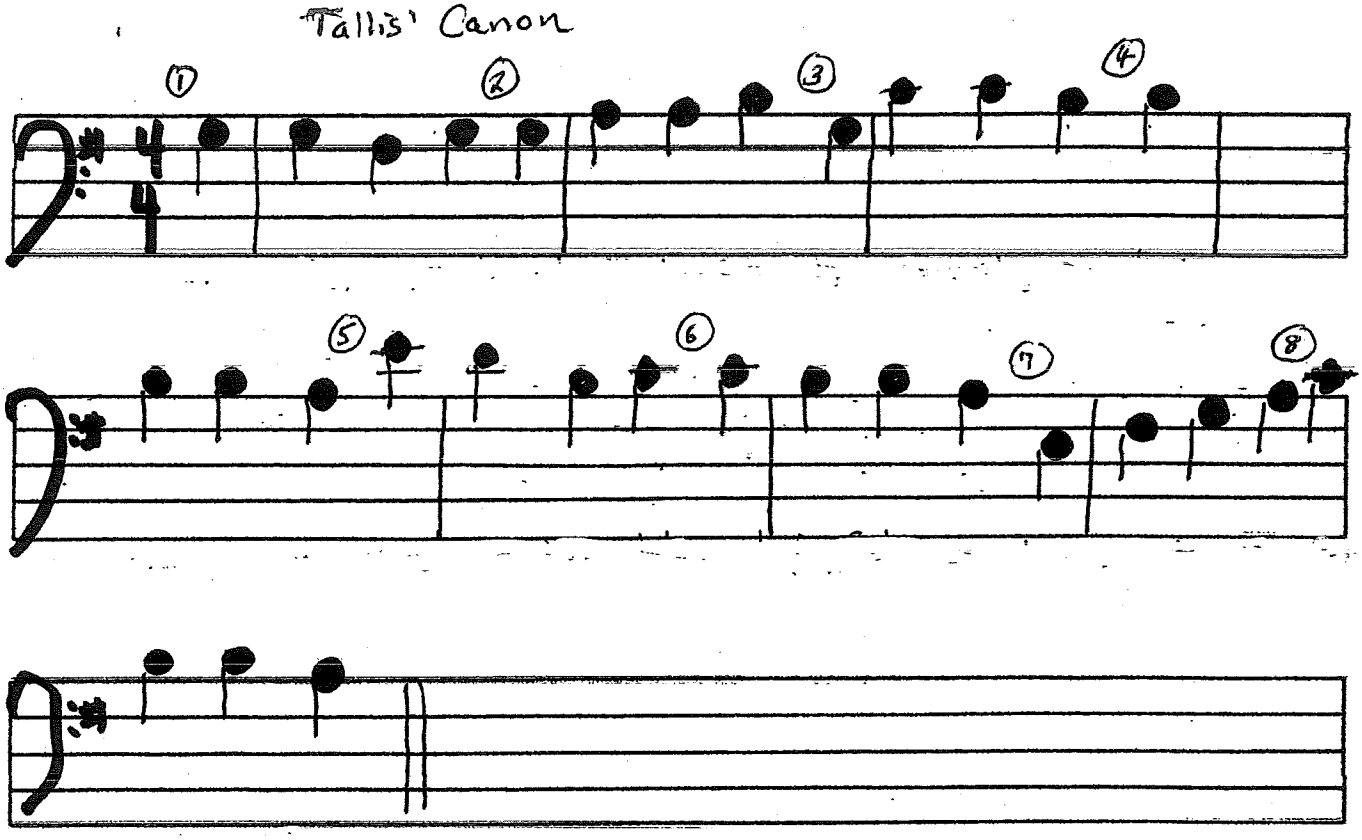
The tune associated with these words and probably used at the school was written by Thomas Tallis (c.1510--1585) a century earlier in 1567 for a Psalter and had a text based on Psalm 67.

From Hymnal:
The Worshipping Church

Tallis' Canon

Viola



Tallis' Canon

Cello