

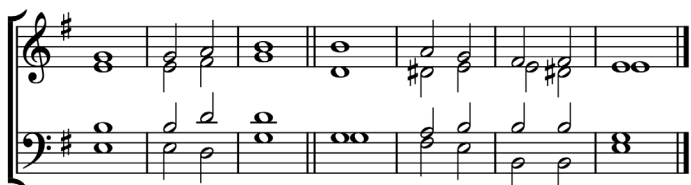
Anglican psalm chant

Biblical psalms are non-metrical, which makes them rather hard to sing, at least to memorable tunes.

One obvious solution is to rewrite the words to fit a regular tune, but another solution is to keep the words as they are, and design a form of irregular music to match them. This latter solution is the idea behind Anglican psalm chant, which evolved from plainsong chant.

The earliest examples of Anglican psalm chant are from the 1680s, including the one by John Blow below.

Single chant by John Blow c.1680



Double chant by Henry Purcell



Triple chant by Christopher Maxim



1. Blessed is the man that | feareth the | Lord : he hath great de|light in | his com|mandments.
2. His seed shall be | mighty • upon | earth : the generation of the | faith-ful | shall be | blest.
3. Riches and plenteousness shall | be in his | house : and his | righteousness en|dureth for | ever.
4. Unto the godly there ariseth up | light in the | darkness : he is | merci-ful | loving and | righteous.
5. A good man is | merciful and | lendeth : and will | guide his | words with dis|cretion.
6. For he shall | never be | moved : and the righteous shall be had in | ev-er|lasting re|membrance.