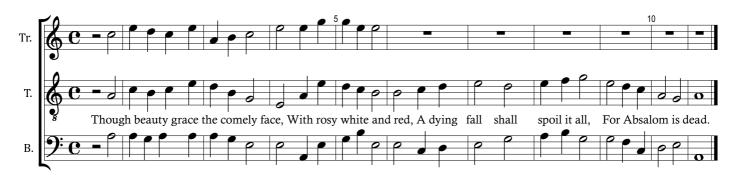
Hattield Transcribed from The Waterhouse Manuscript, 1780.

A minor William Billings, ante 1780



This tune was probably composed by William Billings before 1780, and copied into *The Waterhouse Manuscript* at (or soon after) a singing-school session; the manuscript page is dated May 30, 1780. Obviously the copyist, Susanna Heath, didn't complete copying the Treble part. The words are recondite, apparently a latefr stanza from a longer poem, *Here is a song, which doth belong*, but the first complete version of this poem was not published until 1812.

The tune appeared in Shumway's American Harmony (1793) with different words, Naked, as from the earth we came,

then in Ingalls' *Christian Harmony* as The True Penitent, with yet different words. Billings had apparently considerably revised the tune in the 1780s or 1790s, but the revision didn't appear until the posthumous *Psalm-Singer's Amusement* in 1804 or thereabouts, when it was paired with Isaac Watts' words, *Let others boast how strong they be.*