O God, You Search Me

Bernadette Farrell

FROM THE COLLECTION
Christ, Be Our Light
Choral Songbook #9915
CD #9917
O God, You Search Me
Based on Ps 139
Bernadette Farrell

VERSES 1–3: (♩ = ca. 60)

Melody

1. O God, you search me and you know me. All my
2. You know my resting and my rising. You dis -
3. Before a word is on my tongue, Lord, You have

Soprano
Alto
(Hum)

Tenor
Bass

Keyboard

1. thoughts lie open to your gaze. When I
2. cern my purpose from afar, And with
3. known its meaning through and through. You are

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Parts for oboe and French horn are available in the songbook Christ, Be Our Light, edition 9915.
3

1. walk or lie down you are before me: Ever the
2. love ever-lasting you besiege me: In ev'ry
3. with me beyond my understanding: God of my

1. maker and keeper of my days.
2. moment of life or death, you are.
3. present, my past and future,

O God, You Search Me
VERSE 4: (a cappella)

4. Although your Spirit is upon me, Still I

4. search for shelter from your light. There is

4. nowhere on earth I can escape you: Even the

4. darkness is radiant in your sight.
VERSE 5:

5. For you created me and shaped me,____ Gave me

5. life within my mother’s womb.____ For the
5. wonder of who I am I praise you: Safe in your

5. hands, all creation is made new.
O God, You Search Me
(Guitar/Vocal)

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1. walk or lie down you are before me: Even the
2. love everlasting you besiege me: In ev'ry
3. with me beyond my understanding: God of my
4. nowhere on earth I can escape you: Even the
5. wonder of who I am I praise you: Safe in your

1. maker and keeper of my days.
2. moment of life or death, you are.
3. present, my past and future, too.
4. darkness is radiant in your sight.
5. hands, all creation is made new.

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Performance Notes

This hymn was inspired by my involvement in the liturgy and music of the National Retreat Association Conference in 1992. For the first time the conference was shared by Christians of all traditions in the British Isles.

As well as standing on its own right as a hymn, this setting could be sung between Scripture readings. Its simple form enables the psalm to find its way into the collective memory.

You sometimes might include a solo verse. Or invite different voices to sing different verses. With a choir you can introduce SATB and even use the arrangement for Verse 5 in other verses if you wish.