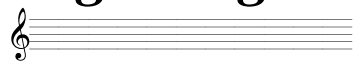


## *High Flight*



The original poem "High Flight" was written by Pilot Officer John Gillespie Jr.. The words came to him while flying at 30, 000 feet. The melody was written by Robert Fleming, January, 1951. Pilot Officer John Gillespie served in the Royal Canadian Air Force from September 1940 until December 11, 1941 when he was killed in active service. This chapter does not include the music, just the poem "High Flight".

### ***HIGH FLIGHT***

Oh, I have slipped the surly bonds of earth  
and danced the skies on laughter-silvered wing;  
Sunward I've climbed, and joined the tumbling mirth  
Of sun-split clouds - and done a hundred things  
You have not dreamed of - wheeled and  
soared and swung  
High in the sunlit silence. Hov'ring there  
I've chased the shouting wind along, and flung  
My eager craft through footless halls of air.  
Up, up the long delirious, burning blue  
I've topped the windswept heights with  
easy grace  
Where never lark, or even eagle flew.  
And, while with silent, lifting mind I've trod  
The high untrespassed sanctity of space,  
Put out my hand, and touched the face  
of God.

*Pilot Officer J.G. Magee, Jr. RCAF*