

Ave Verum Corpus

SATB a cappella

William Byrd
(1543-1623)

Soprano
(SUPERIUS)

Alto
(MEDIUS)

Tenor
(TENOR)

Bass
(BASSUS)

A - ve ve - rum cor - pus,

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Detailed description: This block contains the first system of the musical score. It features four staves for Soprano, Alto, Tenor, and Bass. The Soprano staff begins with a treble clef, a key signature of two flats (B-flat and E-flat), and a common time signature (C). The lyrics 'A - ve ve - rum cor - pus,' are written below each staff. The music consists of a single melodic line for each voice part, with some notes beamed together and others held as whole notes.

5

na - tum de Ma - ri - - a Vir - gi - ne, Ve - re pas - sum, im -

na - tum de Ma - ri - - a Vir - gi - ne, Ve - re pas - sum, im -

na - tum de Ma - ri - - a Vir - gi - ne, Ve - re pas - sum, im -

na - tum de Ma - ri - a Vir - - gi - ne, Ve - re pas - sum, im -

Detailed description: This block contains the second system of the musical score, starting at measure 5. It continues with the same four-part setting. The lyrics are 'na - tum de Ma - ri - - a Vir - gi - ne, Ve - re pas - sum, im -'. The musical notation includes various note values and rests, with some notes beamed together. The Soprano staff has a measure rest at the end of the system.

11

- mo - la - tum in cru - ce pro ho - mi - ne: Cu - jus la -

- mo - la - - tum in cru - ce pro ho - mi - ne: Cu - jus la -

- mo - la - tum in cru - ce pro ho - - mi - ne: Cu - jus la -

- mo - la - tum in cru - ce pro ho - mi - ne: Cu - jus la -

Detailed description: This block contains the third system of the musical score, starting at measure 11. The lyrics are '- mo - la - tum in cru - ce pro ho - mi - ne: Cu - jus la -'. The musical notation continues the four-part setting with various note values and rests. The Soprano staff has a measure rest at the end of the system.

17

-tus per - fo - ra - - tum, un - da flu - xit san - gui - ne, san - gui - ne; Es -

-tus per - fo - ra - tum, un - da flu - xit san - gui - ne, san - gui - ne; Es -

-tus per - fo - ra - tum, un - da flu - xit san - gui - ne; Es -

-tus per - fo - ra - tum, un - - da flu - xit san - gui - ne; Es -

23

- to no - bis prae - gu - sta - tum in mor - tis ex - a - mi - ne. O

- to no - bis prae - gu - sta - tum in mor - tis, in mor - tis ex - a - mi - ne.

to no - bis prae - gu - sta - tum in mor - tis ex - a - mi - ne.

- to no - bis prae - gu - sta - tum in mor - tis ex - a - mi - ne.

29

dul - cis, O pi - e, O Je - su Fi - li Ma - ri -

O dul - cis, O pi - e, O Je - su Fi - li Ma - ri -

O dul - cis, O pi - e, O Je - su Fi - li Ma - ri -

O dul - cis, O pi - e, O Je - su Fi - li Ma - ri -

35

- ae; mi - se - re - re me - i, mi - se - re - re

- ae; mi - se - re - re me - i, mi - se - re - re, mi - se - re - re me - i, mi - se -

- ae; mi - se - re - re me - i, mi - se - re - re me - - i, me -

- ae; mi - se - re - re me - i, mi - se - re - re me - i, mi -

41

me - i, me - - - i, O -i. A - men. 1. 2.

-re - re - me - - - i. -i. A - - - men.

- i, mi - se - re - re me - i. -i. A - - - men.

- se - re - re me - - - i. -i. A - - - men.

SOURCE: *Gradualia*, revised edition, 1610 (originally pub. 1605)

NOTES: Note values halved, bar lines, slurs added. Tenor (m. 39), Alto (mm. 40-41): text underlay uncertain.

TEXT/TRANSLATION:

Ave verum corpus, natum de Maria Virgine,
vere passum, immolatum in cruce pro homine:
Cuius latus perforatum, Unda fluxit sanguine.
Esto nobis praegustatum in mortis examine:
O Dulcis, O pie, O Jesu fili Mariae,
miserere mei. Amen.

*Hail true body, born of the Virgin Mary.
Truly suffering, was sacrificed on the cross for mankind,
From whose pierced side flowed blood,
Be for us a foretaste in the final judgment.
O sweet, O merciful, O Jesus, Son of Mary,
Have mercy on me. Amen.*

PERFORMANCE: Directors may want to raise the pitch one step

edited by Rafael Ornes (4/24/99)