

SATB

Ave verum Corpus

Edited by John Morehen

Hymn to the Blessed Sacrament, Corpus Christi

WILLIAM BYRD

(1543-1623)

The musical score is arranged in four systems. The first system contains the vocal parts: Soprano, Alto, Tenor, and Bass. Each part is written on a five-line staff with a treble clef (Soprano, Alto, Tenor) or bass clef (Bass). The key signature is one flat (B-flat) and the time signature is 4/4. The lyrics are: A - ve ve - rum Cor - - - pus, for Soprano; A - ve ve rum Cor - - - pus, for Alto; A - ve ve - rum Cor - pus, for Tenor; and A - ve ve - rum Cor - - - pus, for Bass. The second system contains the keyboard reduction, labeled 'KEYBOARD REDUCTION (for rehearsal only)'. It consists of a grand staff with a treble clef and a bass clef. The music is in 4/4 time and features a simple harmonic accompaniment. A large diagonal watermark 'for reading session only' is overlaid across the entire score.

Source: *Gradualia ac cantiones sacrae [liber primus]* (London, 1605; reissued 1610).

Translation: Hail, true Body, born of the Virgin Mary, which truly suffered, sacrificed on the cross for mankind; from whose pierced side came forth both water and blood: be unto us the source of consolation at our last hour. O sweet, O holy, O Jesu, son of Mary, have mercy upon me. Amen.

5

na - tum de Ma - ri - - a Vir - gi - ne: Ve -

na - tum de Ma - ri - - a Vir - gi - ne: Ve -

8 na - tum de Ma - ri - - a Vir - gi - ne: Ve -

na - tum de Ma - ri - a Vir - - gi - ne: Ve -

5

9

- re pas - sum, im - mo - la - tum in

- re pas - sum, im - - mo - la - - tum

8 - re pas - sum, im - mo - la - tum in cru -

- re pas - sum, im - mo - la - tum in

9

13

cru - ce pro ho - mi - ne: Cu - ius la - tus per - fo - ra -
 in cru - ce pro ho - mi - ne: Cu - ius la - tus per - fo -
 - ce pro ho - mi - ne: Cu - ius la - tus per - fo -
 cru - ce pro ho - mi - ne: Cu - ius la - tus per - fo -

13

18

- - tum, un da¹ flu - xit san - gui - ne, san - gui -
 - ra - tum, un - da¹ flu - xit san - gui - ne, san - gui -
 - ra - tum, un - da¹ flu - xit san - gui -
 - ra - tum, un - da¹ flu - xit san - gui -

18

¹ 'unde' in first and second issues (York Minster, 1605, and Christ Church, Oxford, 1610)

- ne: Es - to no - bis prae - gu - sta - tum in mor - tis

- ne: Es - to no - bis prae - gu - sta - tum in mor - tis, in

- ne: Es - to no - - bis prae - gu - sta - tum in mor - tis

- ne: Es - to no - bis prae - gu - sta - tum in mor -

— ex - a - mi - ne. O dul - cis, O pi - e, O

mor - tis ex - a - mi - ne. O dul - cis, O pi - e,

— ex - a - - mi - ne. O dul - cis, O pi - e, —

- tis ex - a - - mi - ne. O dul - cis, O pi - e, O

32

Je - su Fi - li Ma - ri - ae,

O Je - su Fi - li Ma - ri - ae,

O Je - su Fi - li Ma - ri - ae,

Je - su Fi - li Ma - ri - ae,

32

mi - se - re - re me - i,

mi - se - re - re me - i, mi - se - re - re, mi - se - re - re

mi - se - re - re me - i, mi - se - re - re me -

mi - se - re - re me - i, mi - se - re - re

36

mi - se - re - re me - i,

mi - se - re - re me - i, mi - se - re - re

36

40

mi - se - re - re me - i, me - - - i. O

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

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

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

44

- i. A - - - men.

- i. A - - - (b) - - - men.

- i. A - - - - - - - - - men.

- i. A - - - - - - - - - men.

² 1st time in first issue, both times in second issue (some copies only)