

Ave Verum Corpus

SATB a cappella

William Byrd
(1543-1623)

Musical score for Ave Verum Corpus, SATB a cappella, by William Byrd. The score consists of four staves: Soprano (Superius), Alto (Mediumus), Tenor (Tenor), and Bass (Bassus). The key signature is C minor (one flat). The vocal parts sing the Latin text "Ave verum corpus, natum de Mari - a Vir - gi - ne, Ve - re pas - sum, immo - la - tum in cru - ce pro ho - mi - ne: Cu - jus la -". The music features various note values including eighth and sixteenth notes, and rests. Measure numbers 1, 5, and 11 are indicated above the staves.

Continuation of the musical score for Ave Verum Corpus. The vocal parts continue singing the Latin text "Ave verum corpus, natum de Mari - a Vir - gi - ne, Ve - re pas - sum, immo - la - tum in cru - ce pro ho - mi - ne: Cu - jus la -". The music continues with eighth and sixteenth notes, and rests. Measure number 5 is indicated above the staves.

Final continuation of the musical score for Ave Verum Corpus. The vocal parts continue singing the Latin text "Ave verum corpus, natum de Mari - a Vir - gi - ne, Ve - re pas - sum, immo - la - tum in cru - ce pro ho - mi - ne: Cu - jus la -". The music concludes with eighth and sixteenth notes, and rests. Measure number 11 is indicated above the staves.

17

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

23

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

1. 2.

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

re - re me - - - 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)