

The *Agnus Dei* (Lamb of God) is a prayer sung between the Breaking of the Bread and the Communion antiphon of the Roman Catholic Mass. It is the fifth and final portion of the Ordinary of the Mass, those sections of the Mass which remain mostly unchanged throughout the Liturgical Year.

In early times, the *Agnus Dei* was used in the Litanies at the end of the Mass but was later incorporated into the liturgy by Pope Sergius I (687-701). The petition “miserere nobis” was originally unchanging but during the 10th — 12th centuries, the three parts form (AAB) which is used today, was established when “dona nobis pacem” replaced the third “miserere nobis.”

In Latin, all vowel sounds should be pure and unchanging. Below is a pronunciation and translation guide for use with this piece.

Agnus Dei
 Áh-nyus Dèh-ee
 (Lamb of God)

qui tollis peccata mundi
 kwee táwl-lees pehk-káh-tah móon-dee
 (who takest away the sins of the world)

miserere nobis
 mee-šeh-reh-reh náu-bees
 (have mercy on us.)

Agnus Dei
 Áh-nyus Déh-ee
 (Lamb of God)

qui tollis peccata mundi
 kwee táwl-lees pehk-káh-tah móon-dee
 (who takest away the sins of the world)

dona nobis pacem
 dáw-nah náu-bees páh-chehm
 (grant us peace.)

Sherri Porterfield currently teaches junior high vocal music at Frontier Trail Junior High in Olanthe, Kansas. She received the B.S.E. in music education from Memphis State University and the Master's in Choral Conducting from the University of Missouri-Kansas City. Her choirs have won many awards and she is in demand as a guest conductor, clinician and adjudicator. She has been composing music since 1987.

For further information on Latin pronunciations, translation, and usage, see *Translations and Annotations of Choral Repertoire, Volume 1: Sacred Latin Texts* by Ron Jeffers (1988, Earthsongs).

AGNUS DEI

for Three-Part Mixed voices, a cappella*

by
SHERRI PORTERFIELD

Rubato, slowly

PART I
PART II
PART III
PIANO

Ag - nus De - i, qui tol - lis pec - ca - ta
Ag - nus De - i, qui tol - lis pec - ca - ta
Ag - nus De - i, qui tol - lis pec - ca - ta

Rubato, slowly
p (for rehearsal only)

3

mun - di, mi - se - re - re, mi - se - re -
mun - di, mi - se - re, mi - se - re,
mun - di, mi - se - re - re

p grad. cresc.
p grad. cresc.
p grad. cresc.
p grad. cresc.

*Also available S.A.T.B., Level Four (7735).

6 *mf* re, mi - se - re - re ___ no - bis. Ag - nus ___

mf mi - se - re - re ___ no - bis. Ag - nus ___

mf no - bis, no - bis. Ag - nus

9 *mp* De - i, Ag - nus ___ De - i, qui

mp De - i, Ag - nus ___ De - i, qui

mp De - i, Ag - nus De - i, qui

12

tol - lis, qui tol - lis pe - ca - ta mun - di,

tol - lis, qui tol - lis pe - ca - ta mun - di,

tol - lis, qui tol - lis pe - ca - ta mun - di,

13

15 *mf* *slight rit.* *a tempo* *p*

mi - se - re - re no - bis. Ag - nus De - i, qui

mi - se - re - re no - bis. Ag - nus De - i, qui

mi - se - re - re no - bis. Ag - nus De - i, qui

17

19

tol - lis pec - ca - ta mun - di, Do - na, _____

tol - lis pec - ca - ta mun - di, Do - na, _____

tol - lis pec - ca - ta mun - di, Do - na, _____

tol - lis pec - ca - ta mun - di, Do - na, _____

p grad. cresc.

p grad. cresc.

p grad. cresc.

p grad. cresc.

22

do - na, do - na no - bis pa - cem.

do - na, do - na no - bis pa - cem.

do na no - bis pa - cem.

do - na, do - na no - bis pa - cem.

mf

mf

mf

mf

rit.

pp

pp

pp

pp

rit.

pp

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