

AVE VERUM CORPUS

WOLFGANG AMADEUS MOZART (1756-1791)
Arranged by RUSSELL ROBINSON

Performance Notes

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart is probably the most famous of all composers, certainly the most famous “classical” composer. (We generally attribute the classical period to the years 1750 to 1820.) He lived only 35 years, yet composed over 600 pieces of all types. This famous motet (a sacred choral work) was written in 1791, the year of Mozart’s death. It is one of the most popular choral works ever written by Mozart and was originally written for four-part choir, organ, and strings.

The English translation of this Latin text speaks to the following Christian prayer:

*Jesus, word of God incarnate, born of the virgin Mary,
On the cross, his flesh was torn with nails to atone for the sins of man.
Cleanse your people by your blood and water.
Feed us with thy broken body, now and forever more.*

However, as with other Latin texts, they cannot be performed stylistically correct in English. That is why the English translation has not been written under the Latin text in this edition (so that it can’t be sung in English). Actually, Latin is much easier to sing than English, because it utilizes five pure vowels. They are: aw, ehw, ee, oh, and oo. Notice the pronunciation of aw rather than ah and ehw rather than eh. In this manner a choral blend may be achieved. Make sure that the singers sing the “ee” vowel with an oo on the lips thereby blending the vowel.

This piece should be sung reserved and never pushed. In addition, try to achieve proper Latin text accents such as:

Á - ve - rum cór-pus

Ex-á-mi-ne per-fo-rá-tum

I hope your choir enjoys performing this beautiful Mozart work.

Russell Robinson

AVE VERUM CORPUS

SAB, accompanied

WOLFGANG AMADEUS MOZART (1756-1791)
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Approximate performance time: 2:30

Slow, $\text{♩} = 80$

The musical score consists of four staves. The top three staves are for voices: Soprano (S), Alto (A), and Bass (B). The bottom staff is for the Keyboard. The music is in common time, key signature of one sharp (F# major), and the tempo is slow ($\text{♩} = 80$). The vocal parts enter in pairs, with the Alto and Bass starting first, followed by the Soprano. The Keyboard part provides harmonic support. The lyrics are written below the vocal lines. A large red watermark reading "Preview Use Requires Purchase" is diagonally across the page.

Voices:

- Soprano (S):** Starts at measure 3, part 2, singing "A - ve," with dynamic p .
- Alto (A):** Starts at measure 3, part 2, singing "A - ve," with dynamic p .
- Bass (B):** Starts at measure 3, part 2, singing "A - ve," with dynamic p .
- Keyboard:** Starts at measure 1, dynamic mp , providing harmonic support.

Lyrics:

A - ve, A - ve
A - ve, A - ve
A - ve, A - ve
ve - rum cor - pus, na - tum de Ma - ri - a
ve - rum cor - pus, na - tum de Ma - ri - a
ve - rum cor - pus, na - tum de Ma - ri - a

A musical score for three voices (Soprano, Alto, Tenor) and piano. The vocal parts are in G major, common time. The piano part is in G major, common time.

Vocal Parts:

- Soprano:** The soprano part begins with a melodic line consisting of eighth and sixteenth notes. It includes lyrics such as "Vir - gi - ne," "ve - re pas - sum," and "im - mo - la - tum in cru - ce pro".
- Alto:** The alto part follows a similar melodic line with eighth and sixteenth notes, including the same lyrics.
- Tenor:** The tenor part follows the same melodic line and lyrics as the soprano and alto parts.

Piano Part:

- The piano part provides harmonic support, featuring chords and bass notes.
- Dynamic markings include ***mf*** (mezzo-forte), ***f*** (forte), and ***ff*** (double forte).
- Measure numbers **11** and **12** are indicated above the music.

Text:

Vir - gi - ne, ve - re pas - sum,
Vir - gi - ne, ve - re pas - sum,
Vir - gi - ne, ve - re pas - sum
im - mo - la - tum in cru - ce pro
im - mo - la - tum in cru - ce pro
im - mo - la - tum in cru - ce pro

Musical score for three voices (Soprano, Alto, Bass) and piano. The vocal parts are in common time, treble clef, and key signature of one sharp. The piano part is in common time, bass clef, and key signature of one sharp. The vocal parts sing "ho - mi - ne:" three times. The piano part begins at measure 22 with dynamic *mp*, followed by measures 23-25 with lyrics "Cu - jus la - tus per - fo - ra - tum. Un - da". Measure 26 begins with *mp*, followed by measures 27-29 with lyrics "Cu - jus la - tus per - fo - ra - tum. Un - da". Measure 30 begins with *mp*, followed by measures 31-32 with lyrics "Cu - jus la - tus per - fo - ra - tum. Un - da". Measure 33 begins with *mp*, followed by measures 34-35 with lyrics "Cu - jus la - tus per - fo - ra - tum. Un - da". Measure 36 begins with *mf*. The vocal parts sing "ho - mi - ne:" again.

rit. *p* 30 *a tempo* *mp*

flu - xit et san - gui - ne: E - sto

flu - xit et san - gui - ne: E - sto no - bis

flu - xit et san - gui - ne: E - sto

rit. *p* 30 *a tempo* *mp*

cresc.

no - bis prae - gus - ta - tum in mor - tis ex - a - mi -

cresc.

no - bis prae - gus - ta - tum in mor - tis ex - a - mi -

cresc.

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ne, in mor tis ex -

a mi - ne.

a mi - ne.

a mi - ne.

rit.

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