

COMPOSER'S NOTE

The two verses from the Pange Lingua that constitute the Tantum Ergo are particularly powerful when considered on their own. The second verse strikes a certain resonance with me, as it is almost overwhelming in its joy. The line that roughly translates as 'health, honour and viture and blessing' sums up some of the core principles of the Christian faith, concentrating on the theme of morality. I have tried to address this when approaching this text musically, and I think that it is particularly appropriate in the setting for which it was commissioned. When considered as the introit for the Edington Festival Evensong broadcast, this text is a celebration of all the good that the Christian faith can bring. From a musical perspective I have evoked this through the musical material, as it all heads in one joyful direction. The fast moving sections towards the end of the piece sum up the overall compositional technique, as I have taken the first sample of Gregorian Chant of the Pange Lingua, and presented it at a number of different levels. In a sense, the whole piece becomes an outline of this short melody, as well as the melody entering the phrases at a small scale.

I was absolutely honoured to have this piece premiered at the Edington Festival on their BBC Radio 3 Broadcast in August of 2015 by the Edington Music Festival Consort, conducted by Jeremy Summerly.

PERFORMANCE NOTE

All irregular time signatures should be conducted with the same groupings each time: $5/4$ (2+3), $7/8$ (2+2+3), $5/8$ (2+3). The sections of chanting should be repeated continuously and entries should be staggered so that all singers on the part are not coordinated. The phrases that start with a '+' and end with 'o' should start with closed nn, gradually opened to an ah vowel. This should happen at the performers own discretion and should not be coordinated.

Duration: c.3'

TANTUM ERGO

Tantum ergo sacramentum
veneremur cernui,
et antiquum documentum
novo cedat ritui;
praestet fides supplementum
sensuum defectui.

Genitori Genitoque
laus et iubilatio,
salus, honor, virtus quoque
sit et benedictio;
procedenti ab utroque
compar sit laudatio.
Amen.

Therefore so great a Sacrament
Let us fall down and worship,
And let the old law
Give way to a new rite,
And let faith stand forward
To make good the defects of sense.

To the Father and the Son
Be praise and joy,
Health, honour and virtue
And blessing,
And to him proceeding from both
Be equal praise. Amen.

Tantum Ergo Sacramentum

Pange Lingua

Marco Galvani

♩=80 Moderato e legato

Soprano
p Tan-tum er - go sa - cra - men - tum *mp* Ve - ne - re - mur cer - nu - i *p* *mp*

Alto
fp nn/ah *mf* ah/nn *pp*

Tenor
fp nn *falsetto*

Bass
fp nn

6

S. *mp* Tan-tum er - go sa - cra - men - tum *pp*

A. *mp* Tan-tum er - go sa - cra - men -

T. *f* *fp* ah *f* *pp*

B. *f* *falsetto* *fp* *mf*

♩=84 (2+2+3)
+

10 *mp* *pp* *fp*

S. *mp* *pp* *fp*
Ve - ne - re - mur cer - nu - i nn/ah

A. *pp* *mp* *pp*
- tum ve - ne - re - mur cer - nu - i

T. *fp* *f* *p* nat. *p*
nn Tan-tum er - go

B. *pp* *ppp*
nn

(2+3)

14 *mf* *pp*

S. *mf* *pp*
nn/ah

A. *fp*
nn/ah

T. *mp* *mp*
sa - cra - men - tum ve - ne - re - mur cer - nu - i et an - ti-quum do - cu - men -

B. nat. *p* *mp* *mp*
Tan-tum er - go sa - cra - men - tum ve - ne - re - mur cer - nu - i et