

O Magnum misterium - Beata virgo

William Byrd (c.1540-1623)

Cantus primus

Contratenor

Tenor

Bassus

O Ma - gnum mi - ste - ri - um, mi - ste - ri - um,

O Ma - gnum mi - ste - ri - um, O ma -

O Ma - gnum mi - ste - ri - um, mi - ste -

5

O Ma - gnum mi - ste - ri - um, et ad - mi - ra - bi - le,

O ma - gnum mi - ste - ri - um, et

- gnum mi - ste - ri - um, mi - ste - ri - um, et ad - mi - ra - bi - le sa - cra - men -

- ri - um, mi - ste - ri - um, et ad - mi - ra - bi - le, sa -

10

et ad - mi - ra - bi - le sa - cra - men - tum, sa - cra - men - tum, et

ad - mi - ra - bi - le sa - cra - men - tum, sa - cra - men - tum,

- tum, et ad - mi - ra - bi - le sa - cra - men -

- cra - men - tum, sa - cra - men - tum, et ad - mi - ra - bi - le sa -

15

ad - mi - ra - bi - le sa - cra - men - tum, ut

et ad - mi - ra - bi - le sa - cra - men - tum, ut a - ni - ma - li -

- tum, et ad - mi - ra - bi - le sa - cra - men - tum, ut a - ni - ma - li - a,

- cra - men - tum, sa - cra - men - tum, ut a - ni -

20

a - ni - ma - li - a, ut a - ni - ma - li - a vi - de - rent Do - mi -
 - a, ut a - ni - ma - li - a vi - de - rent Do - mi - num, ut a - ni -
 ut a - ni - ma - li - a vi - de - rent Do - mi - num na -
 - ma - li - a vi - de - rent, ut a - ni - ma - li - a vi -

25

- num na - tum, vi - de - rent Do - mi - num na - - -
 - ma - li - a vi - de - rent Do - mi - num, vi - de - rent Do - mi - num na -
 - tum, na - tum, vi - de - rent Do - mi - num na - - -
 - de - rent Do - mi - num, vi - de - rent Do - mi - num na -

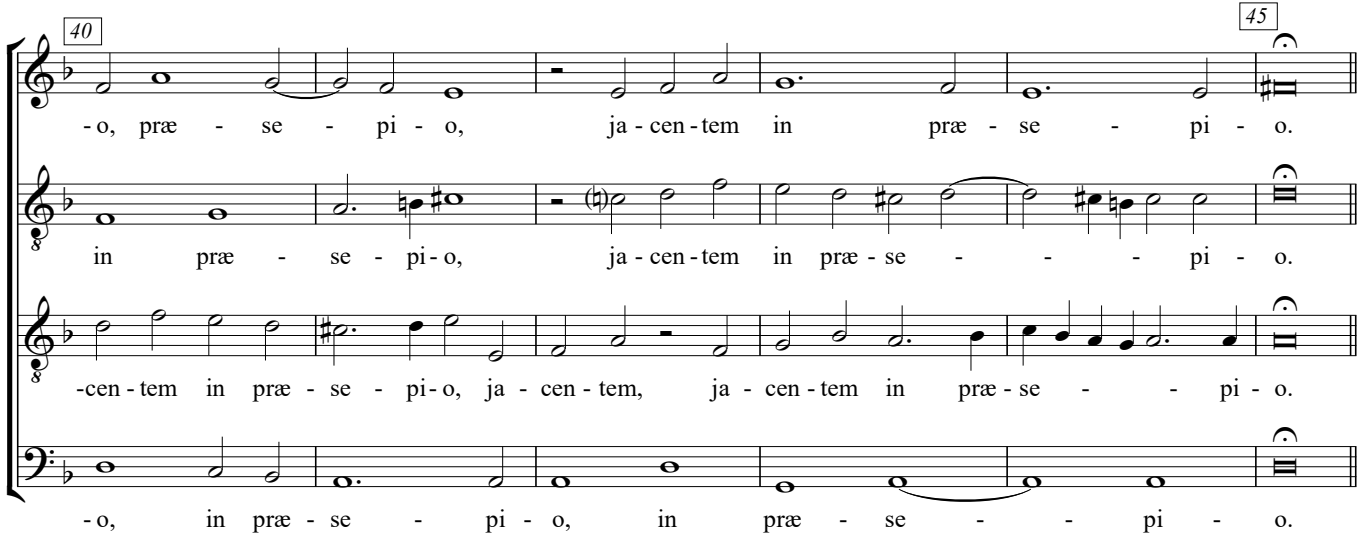
30

- tum, na - - - tum, ja - cen - tem in præ - se - pi - o,
 - tum, na - tum, ja - cen - tem in præ - se - pi - o, in præ - se -
 - tum, ja - cen - tem in præ - se - pi - o, ja - cen - tem
 - tum ja - cen - tem in præ - se - pi - o, in præ - se - pi - o,

35

ja - cen - tem in præ - se - pi - o, ja - cen - tem in præ - se - pi -
 - pi - o, ja - cen - tem in præ - se - pi - o,
 in præ - se - pi - o, præ - se - pi - o, in præ - se - pi - o, ja -
 ja - cen - tem in præ - se - pi - o, ja - cen - tem in præ - se - pi -

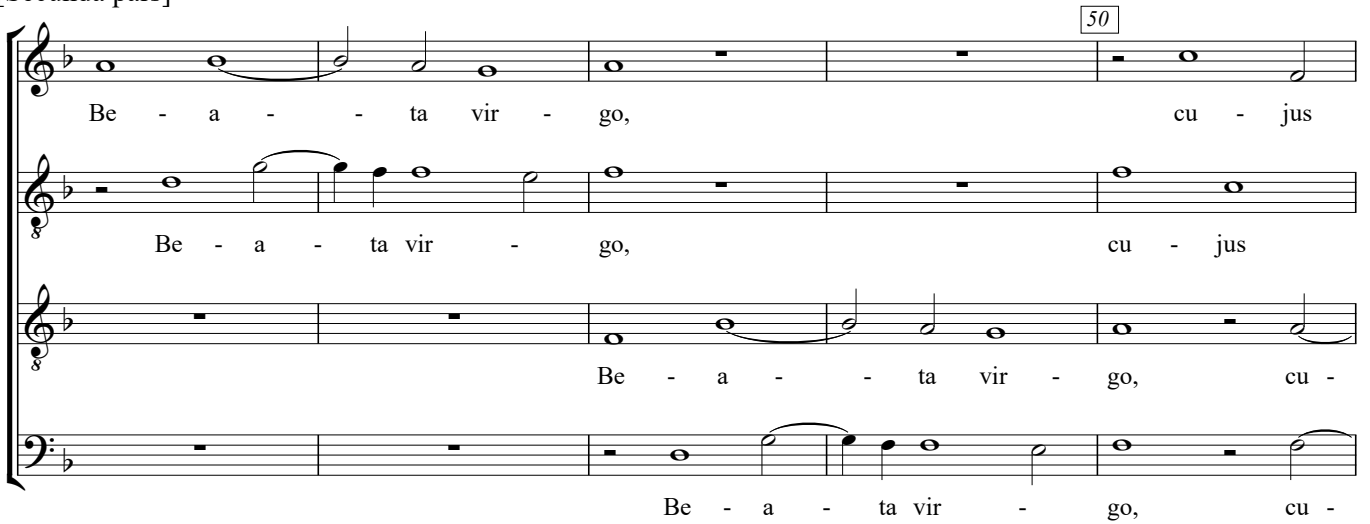
40 45



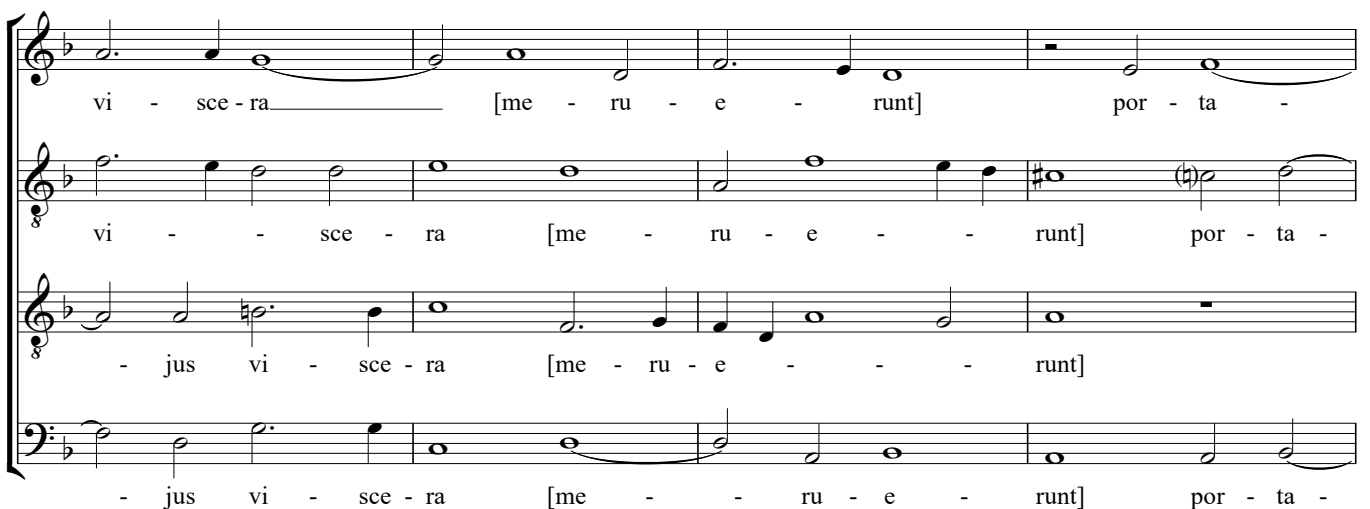
- o, prae - se - pi - o, ja - cen - tem in prae - se - pi - o.
in prae - se - pi - o, ja - cen - tem in prae - se - - - pi - o.
- cen - tem in prae - se - pi - o, ja - cen - tem, ja - cen - tem in prae - se - - - pi - o.
- o, in prae - se - pi - o, in prae - se - - - pi - o.

[Secunda pars]

50



Be - a - - ta vir - go, cu - jus
Be - a - - ta vir - go, cu - jus
Be - a - - ta vir - go, cu -
Be - a - - ta vir - go, cu -



vi - sce - ra [me - ru - e - runt] por - ta -
vi - - sce - ra [me - ru - e - - runt] por - ta -
- jus vi - sce - ra [me - ru - e - - runt]
- jus vi - sce - ra [me - - ru - e - runt] por - ta -

55

re, por - ta - re, Do - mi - num Chri -
 re, por - ta - re, Do - mi - num Chri - stum, Do - mi -
 por - ta - re, Do - mi - num Chri - stum, Chri -
 re, por - ta - re Do - mi - num Chri -

60 *Fine*

- stum, Do - mi - num Chri - stum. *Fine*
 - num Chri - stum, Do - mi - num Chri - stum.
 - stum, Do - mi - num Chri - stum.
 - stum, Do - mi - num Chri - stum.

Versus

65

A - ve Ma - ri - a, A -
 A - ve Ma - ri - a, Ma - ri -
 A - ve Ma -

70

- ve Ma - ri - a, gra - ti - a
 - a, Ma - ri - a, gra - ti - a ple - na, gra - ti - a ple -
 - ri - a, Ma - ri - a, gra - ti - a ple -

ple - - na, Do - mi-nus te - cum, te - - - cum, Do -
- na, Do - mi-nus te - cum, Do - mi-nus te - cum, Do -
-na, Do - mi-nus te - cum, Do - mi-nus te - - -

Secunda pars D.C. al fine

75

- mi - nus te - - - - - - - - - cum.
- mi - nus te - - - - - - - - - cum.
- - - - cum, te - - - - - - - - - cum.

O great mystery and wonderful sacrament, that beasts should see the birth of our Lord, lying in a manger.
O blessed virgin, whose womb was worthy to bear Christ our Lord.
Hail, Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee.

Source: William Byrd: *Gradualia, seu cantionum sacrarum... Liber secundus* (1st edition 1607, 2nd edition 1610), nos. 8-9.
Liturgical function: 4th Responsory, Matins, Christmas Day.

I.8, 10, 15: *O admirabile*

IV.46 b₁ added to ks

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