

# O Virtus Sapientiae

Hildegard von Bingen (1098-1179)

O virtus Sapientiae,  
quae circuiens circuisti  
comprehendendo omnia  
in una via, quae habet vitam,  
tres alas h-bens,  
quarum una in altum volat,  
et altera de terra sudat,  
et tertia undique volat.  
Laus tibi sit, sicut te decet,  
O Sapientia.

O strength of Wisdom  
who, circling, circled,  
enclosing all  
in one lifegiving path,  
three wings you have:  
one soars to the heights,  
one distils its essence upon the earth,  
and the third is everywhere.  
Praise to you, as is fitting,  
O Wisdom.

*Translation by Kate Quartano Brown*

The musical notation consists of five staves of Gregorian chant in common time, each starting with a treble clef. The lyrics are written below the staves, aligned with the notes. The first staff covers the first two lines of the Latin text. The second staff covers 'en - - - ti - ae, \_\_\_\_\_'. The third staff covers 'den-do o - mni - a in\_ un - a\_ vi - a, quae ha - bet vi - tam, tres\_ a - las\_'. The fourth staff covers 'ha - - bens, qua - rum\_\_\_\_ un - a\_ in\_ al - tum\_\_\_\_ vo - lat, et\_'. The fifth staff covers 'al - te - ra de\_ ter - ra su - dat, et\_ ter - ti - a un - di - que\_ vo - lat. Laus\_'. The sixth staff covers 'ti - bi sit,\_\_\_\_\_ si - cut\_ te\_ de - cet, O\_\_\_\_\_ Sa - pi - en - ti - a.'