

**O admirabile commercium**  
a Christmas quodlibet by Johannes Regis

O admirabile commercium!  
Creator generis humani,  
animatum corpus sumens,  
de virgine nasci dignatus est:  
et procedens homo sine semine,  
largitus est nobis suam deitatem.  
Verbum caro factum est, et habitavit in nobis:  
Magnum nomen Domini Emanuel  
quod annunciatum est per Gabriel.

Jocundare die theotoce,  
tumula festo omnique mesto gaudio  
hostes nunc arte virgo bona  
mentis ab arce anime  
feliciter ire pro nobis iter  
nam si vera loquar protectrix  
turris adamantina  
es amica piis optima christicolis.  
Verbum caro factum est, et habitavit in nobis:  
Et vidimus gloriam ejus,  
gloriam quasi Unigeniti a Patre.  
Hodie apparuit in Israhel  
per Mariam Virginem et per Joseph natus est.  
Sunt impleta quae praedixit Gabriel.  
Eya virgo Deum genuit  
sicut divina voluit clementia,  
Quasi unigeniti a Patre.

Puer natus est nobis, et filius datus est nobis:  
cujus imperium super humerum ejus:  
et vocabitur nomen ejus,  
magni consilii Angelus.  
Mitibus nos orbis post mala cel nolis.  
Universalis ecclesia congaudeat his temporibus  
cum angelis sic canentibus:  
Eya, alleluia, Deo in excelsis gloria  
et in terra pax hominibus.  
Suscipe deprecationem nostram.  
Sus, vallasus in orisus.  
Requiescat ille parvulus, noe, noe. Amen.

O wondrous exchange!  
The Creator of the human race,  
taking on a living body,  
deigned to be born of a virgin:  
and becoming man without seed,  
bestowed upon us his divinity.  
The Word became flesh, and dwelt among us:  
Great is the name of the Lord Emanuel  
which was proclaimed by Gabriel.

Rejoice, mother of God, on a day  
filled with every festive joy, bury  
your enemies now, kind virgin, with skill  
of mind as from the citadel of soul  
you make a journey of salvation for us,  
for if I am to speak truth, O protectress  
and adamantine tower,  
you are the best friend of devout Christians.  
The Word became flesh, and dwelt among us,  
And we have seen his glory,  
glory as of the only-begotten of the Father.  
Today he has appeared in Israel,  
born to the Virgin Mary and Joseph.  
The things Gabriel predicted have come to pass.  
Joy! a virgin has given birth to God  
just as divine mercy willed,  
As of the only-begotten of the Father.

A child has been born for us, and a son given to us,  
whose kingdom is on his shoulder,  
and his name shall be called  
the Angel of the Great Council.  
After worldly evils you assist us with gentle prayers.  
Let the universal church rejoice in these times  
with angels singing thus:  
Joy! Alleluia! Glory to God in the highest  
and on earth peace to humankind.  
Receive our prayer.  
Hush. In her lap, before her eyes,  
may that little one rest. Noel, noel. Amen.

Source: *Collected Works*, 1956, ed. C.W.H. Lindenburg, vol. II. Original note values halved. Translation (some of it speculative, with the help of Quintus Translation Service), text underlay, and *musica ficta* by John Hetland and The Renaissance Street Singers.

23 Nov 2013

# O admirabile commercium

Johannes Regis (Franco-Flemish; c.1425-c.1496)

*O wondrous exchange,*

Musical score for the first system, measures 1-4. The score is for five voices: Soprano 1 (S1), Soprano 2 (S2), Alto (A), Tenor (T), and Bass (B). The key signature has one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 9/4. The lyrics are: S1: ad - mirá - bi - le com - mér -; A: ad - - mirá - bile commér - - -; T: ad - - - - mirá - - bi -; B: 0 ad - mi - - rá - - - bi - - - le

*the creator of the human race*

Musical score for the second system, measures 5-7. The score is for five voices: S1, S2, A, T, and B. The lyrics are: S1: - - - - ci-um! Cre - - á - - tor gé - neris hu -; A: - - - - ci-um! Cre - á - - tor gé - ne - ris hu má - -; T: - le com - - mér - - - ci - um - - - ! Cre - á - tor; B: - - - - -

*taking on a living body, (The Word became flesh,)*

*deigned*

Musical score for the third system, measures 8-11. The score is for five voices: S1, S2, A, T, and B. The lyrics are: S1: - - má - ni - , a - ni - má tum córpus sú - mens, de - vír - gi -; S2: Vér - - - - bum - - - -; A: - - - - ni. Vér - - - - bum - - - - cá - - - -; T: gé - neris hu - má ni, a - nimá tum cór - pus sú - mens,; B: com - mér - - - ci - - - - um - - - - !

*to be born of a virgin*

*and becoming*

12 15

S1 -ne násci di-gnátus est, di - gná - - tu est: et pro -

S2 cá - - - - ro fá - - - -

A -ro fá - - - - ctum est, vér -

T de vír - gi - ne ná - sci di - gná - tus

B Cre - - - - á - - - - tor... a - - - -

*man*

*(and dwelt among us:)*

16 18

S1 - - cé - dens hó - - - - mo - - - - sí - -

S2 ctum est,

A -bum cá-ro fác - tum est et ha - bi - tá - -

T est: et pro - cé - dens hó - - - -

B -ni - - má - - - - tum cór - pus sú - mens,

*without seed*

19 21

S1 -ne sé - mi - - - ne - - - - , sí - - - - ne sé - - - - mi -

S2 et ha - bi - tá - - vit in nó - - - -

A - - - - vit in nó - - - -

T -mo sí - - - - ne sé - mi - - - - ne - - - - , sí - - - -

B de vír - gi - ne ná - - - - sci

bestowed upon us his divinity.  
*(Great is the name of the Lord Emanuel)*

22 24

S1 -ne, lár - gi - tus est nó - - bis, lár - - - gi - tusest

S2 -bis: Mágnum nó - men Dó - mi - ni E - mánu - el

A -bis: Et pro - - - cé - dens hó - - - mo, hó -

T sé - - - mi - ne, Má - gnum nó - men Dó - mi - ni E -

B di - - - gná - tus est:

*(which was proclaimed by Gabriel.)*

25 27

S1 nó - bis sú - am de - itá - - - tem,

S2 quod annun - ci - á - tum est per Gá - bri - el.

A - mo sí - ne sé - - - mi - ne... Mágnum nó - men Dó - mi -

T má - - - nu - el quod an - nun - ci - á - tum est per Gá -

B et pro - cé - - - dens hó - - - mo

28 31

S1 lár - gitus est nó bis sú am de - - i - tá - tem.

S2 (el.)

A - ni E - má - nu - el quod annun - ci - á - tum est per Gábri - el.

T - - - briel. Lár - gitus est nó bis sú am de - i - tá - - tem.

B sí ne sé mi - ne, lár - gitus est nó - bis sú - am de - i - tá - - tem.

Secunda pars

*Rejoice, mother of God, on a day*

32 36 #

S1 Jo-cun-dá - re dí - - e the - - ó - - - - - to-

S2

A Jo-cun-dá - re dí - - e the - - ó - to - - - - -

T Jo-cun - - dá - re dí - - - - e the - ó - - to -

B

*filled with every festive joy, bury*

37 41

S1 -ce, tú - - - mu - - la fé - - - - - sto om -

S2

A -ce, tú - - mu - la fé - - - - - sto om - - - ní - que

T -ce, tú - - mu - - la fé - sto om - ní que mé-sto gáu-di-

B

0,

*The Word became flesh, and dwelt among us,*

42 45

S1 -ní - - - - que mé - - - sto gáu-

S2

A mé - - sto gáu - - - di - o. Vér -

T -o Vér - bum cá-ro fá-ctum est,

B Vér - bum cá-ro fá-ctum est, et ha - - - bi - tá - - -

46 (your 50

S1 di o. VÉR - bum cá-ro fáctum est. Hó - stes

S2 VÉR - bum cá-ro fáctum

A - bum cá-ro fáctum est, et ha - bi - tá - vit in

T et ha - bi - tá - vit in nó - bis:

B - vit in nó - bis:

*enemies now, kind Virgin, with skill)  
And we have seen his glory,*

*(of mind as from*

51 56

S1 nunc ár - te vír - go bó - na mén - tis ab

S2 est, et ha - bi - tá - vit in nó - bis:

A nó - bis, nó - bis: Et ví - dimus

T Et ví - di - mus gló - ri - am é - jus.

B Et ví - di - mus gló - ri -

*the citadel) glory as of the only-begotten of the Father. (of soul you make a salvation)*

57 60

S1 ár - ce á - ni-me fe - lí-ci -

S2 Et ví - dimus gló - riam é - jus.

A gló - ri - am é - jus, gló - ri - am quási U - ni - gé - ni - ti

T

B - am é - jus, quá - si U - ni - gé -

Today he has appeared in Israel,  
(journey for us) born to the

61 64

S1 -ter í - - - re pro\_ nó-bis í - ter, pro\_ nó - bis

S2 - - - - - Hó-di - e ap-pá-ru-it in Isra - hel: per Marí-am Vír-gi-

A a\_ - - - - - Pá - - - tre. Hó-di - e ap-pá-ru-it in Is-ra-hel: per Maríam

T - - - - -

B - - - - -

- ni-ti a Pá - - - tre.

*Virgin Mary and Joseph. (for if I am to speak truth, O protectress)*

*The things Gabriel predicted*

65 68

S1 í - ter nam si vé - - - ra ló - quar pro - téc - - - trix\_

S2 -nem ná-tus est. Sunt implé-ta quae praedí-xit Gá - - bri-

A Vír-ginem\_ et per Jóseph nátus est. Sunt im - plé-ta quae praedí-xit\_ Gá-bri-

T - - - - - Sunt im-plé-ta quae praedí-xit Gá - - - bri -

B - - - - -

*have come to pass.  
(and adamantine tower,)*

*Joy! a virgin*

69 72

S1 - - túr - - ris ad-a-mán - - - ti - na es\_ - - - a mí - ca\_

S2 -el. E - ia! Vír-go Dé-um

A -el, sunt implé-ta quae praedí-xit Gá - - briel\_

T -el, quae prae - dí - xit Gábri-el.

B - - - - -

Per Ma-rí-am Vír-ginem ná-

*has given birth to God  
(you are the best friend) just as divine mercy willed,*

73 # 75

S1 *— pí - - - is,*

S2 *gé - nu-it síc-ut di-ví - na vó - lu-it cle-mén - - - ti-a.*

A

T *E - - ia! Vír - go Dé - - - - - um gé-nu -*

B *- tus est. Sunt im-plé - ta quae praedí-xit Gá - - - - bri - -*

*(of devout Christians.)*

76 79

S1 *- ptima chri - stí - - co-lis, ó-ptima chri - stí - - co*

S2

A *E - ia! Vír-go Dé-um gé-nu-it síc-ut diví-na vólu - it clemén - ti -*

T *-it síc-ut di - ví - - - na vó-lu-it clemén - ti - a*

B *-el*

*As of the only-begotten of the Father.*

80 83

S1 *-lis. Quá - - si U-ni-gé - - ni-ti a Pá - - tre.*

S2 *(a.)*

A *-a. Quá-si U-ni-gé - - ni-ti a Pá - - - tre.*

T *Quá - - si U-ni-gé - ni-ti a Pá - - tre.*

B *Quá - si U - - - ni-gé - ni - - ti a Pá - tre.*



Tertia pars

*A child has been born for us,*

84 87

S1 Pú - - er ná - - tus est nó - - bis,

S2 Pú - - - - er

A Pú - - er ná - - - - tus est nó - - bis, nó - bis,

T Pú - - - - er

B

*and a son given to us,*

88 91

S1 et fí - - li - - us dá - - tus est nó - bis,

S2

A et fí - - li - - us dá - - tus est nó - bis,

T

B Pú - - - - er

*whose kingdom is on his shoulder,*

92 94

S1 , nó - - - - bis: Mí - - ti - -

S2 ná - - - - tus est nó - - - - bis

A nó - - bis cú - - - - jus im-pé - - ri - -

T ná - - - - tus est nó - - - - bis

B ná - - - - tus est nó - - - - bis

(After worldly evils you assist us with gentle prayers.)  
and his name shall

95 97

S1 - - - - bus nos ór - - - -

S2 - - - - et

A -um sú-per hú - me - rum é - - - jus: et vo - cá - -

T - - - - et

B -bis, et

*be called*

98 100

S1 - - - - bis

S2 - - - - ff - - - - li -

A - bitur nó - - - - men é - - - -

T - - - - ff - - - - li -

B - - - - ff - li - - - -

*the Angel of the Great Council.*

101 103

S1 post má - - - -

S2 -us dá - -

A - - jus, Má - - - - gni

T -us dá - -

B -us dá - -

104 106

S1 - la cel nó - - -

S2 - - - tus est nó - - - bis:

A Con - sí - - li - - i An - - - ge -

T - - - tus est

B - - - tus est nó - - -

*Let the universal church rejoice in these times*

107 109

S1 - - - - - lis.

S2 U-niversá-lis ec-clé-si-a congáudeat his tem-pó-ri-bus

A - - - lus. Post

T nó - - - bis: U-niversá-lis ec-clé-si-a

B - - - bis, nó - - - bis, cú-jus

*with angels singing thus:*

*Receive our prayer.*

110 112

S1 - - - - - Sú - - - -

S2 cum ángelissic ca-nén - - - - - tibus: E - -

A má - - - - - la cel nó - - - - - lis.

T congáudeat his tem-pó-ri-bus cum ángelis sic ca-nén-ti-bus:

B im - - - pé - - - ri - - - um

Joy! Alleluia! Glory to God in the highest

113 115

S1: sci - pe de-pre-ca - ti - ó - - - nem.

S2: -ia! alle-lú-ia Dé-o, al-le-lú-ia, Dé-o in excélsis gló - - ri -

A: Sú - - - - sci - - - - pe

T: E - ia! al - le - - lú-ia Dé - o, al-le-lú-ia Dé-o, alle-lú-ia, Dé-

B: sú - - - - - per hú-me-rum

and on earth peace to

116 118

S1: nó - - - - - stram, nó - - - -

S2: -a, et in terra pax ho - mí - ni - bus.

A: de-pre - - ca - - - ti-ó - nem nó - - - - -

T: -o in excélsis gló - - ri - a, gló - - - - - ri - a,

B: é - - -

humankind.

Hush. In her lap, before her

119 122

S1: - - stram Sus, válla-sus, válla-sus,

S2: Sus, válla-sus, válla-sus,

A: - - stram, nó - stram. Sus, válla-sus, válla-sus,

T: et in terra pax ho - - - mí - ni - bus. Sus, válla-sus, válla-sus,

B: -jus, é - - - - jus: Sus, vál-la-sus, válla-sus,

eyes, 123 126

S1 vál-lasus in ó-ri-sus, in ó - - - - ri-sus, in ó-risus,

S2 vál-lasus in ó-ri-sus, valla-sus in ó-ri-sus.

A vál-lasus in ó-ri-sus, in ó-ri-sus, vál-lasus in ó - risus, valla - -

T valla-sus in ó-ri-sus, vál-la-sus

B vál-lasus in ó-ri-sus, in ó-ri-sus, vál-lasus

*May that little one rest. Noel, noel.*

127 129

S1 vál-lasus in ó-ri-sus. Requi-é - scat fl-le pár - - - - -

S2 Re - - qui-éscat fl-le pár - - vu-lus.

A - sus in ó-ri - sus. Re - qui-éscat fl - - le pár-vu-lus, re-qui-éscat il-le parvu-

T in ó-ri-sus. Requi-éscat fl - le pár - vu - lus. No - e

B in ó - risus. Re - qui - é - scat párvu-

*Amen.*

130 133

S1 - - vulus. No-e, no - e. A - men, á - - - - men.

S2 A - - - - men.

A -lus, No - - e. A - - - - men.

T , no - e, no-e, no - e. A - - - - men.

B -lus. No-e, no - - - e. A - - - - men.

Emendations: Mm 2-3, bass, 2 notes from 1; m 25, soprano, lengthened 3rd note and shortened rest; m 88, bass, shortened last 2 notes; supplied a lot of missing dots; text: theótoce for theótrice, adamántina for adánter.