

# O Magnum misterium - Beata virgo

William Byrd (c.1540-1623)

Cantus primus [Soprano]

Contratenor [Alto]

Tenor [Tenor]

Bassus [Bass]

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 -

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 -

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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 -

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 -

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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 -

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-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 -

-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,

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-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]

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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 -

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

Versus

Cl. A - ve Ma - ri - a, A -  
 Ct. A - ve Ma - ri - a, Ma - ri -  
 T. 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*

- 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.

Transposed up a minor third from published pitch.

I.8, 10, 15: *O admirabile*  
 IV.46  $b_b$ , added to *ks*

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