

Stella caeli

Edited by Jason Smart

John Thorne (d.1573)

Mean  

Tenor  

Bass  



4

8

11

14

pri - mus pa - rens ho - mi - num,
pri - mus pa -
- mi - - - - - num,
pri - mus pa - rens ho - mi -
- num,
pri - mus pa - rens
ho - mi - - - - -

17

- rens ho - mi - num. I - psa stel - la nunc di -

8

- - - - num. I - psa stel - la nunc di - gne -

- - - - num. I - psa stel - la nunc di - gne - tur

21

- gne - tur si - de - ra com - pe - sce - re, si - de - ra com - pe - sce -

8 - tur si - de - ra com - pe - sce - re, si - de - ra com - pe - sce - re, quo -

si - de - ra com - pe - sce - re, si - de - ra com - pe - sce - re, quo -

28

-tis ul - ce - re, di - rae mor - tis ul - ce - re.

ul - ce - re, di - rae mor - tis ul - ce - re.

32

O glo - ri - o - sa stel - la ma - ris, a pe - ste suc-cur-re no - .

O glo - ri - o - sa stel-la ma - - - ris, a pe - ste suc-cur-re no - .

O glo - ri - o - sa stel - la ma - - ris, a pe - ste suc-cur-re no - .

35

- bis. Au - di nos: nam Fi - li - us, ni-hil.

- bis. Au - di nos: nam Fi - li - us, ni-hil.

- bis. Au - di nos: nam Fi - li - us, ni-hil ne - .

38

ni - hil ne - gans, te ho - no - rat, ni-hil ne - gans, te ho - no - rat.

ne - gans, te ho - no - rat, ni-hil ne - gans, te ho - no - rat.

- gans, te ho - no - rat, ni-hil ne - gans, te ho - no - rat.

41

Sal - va nos, Je - su, pro qui - bus vir - go,
 Sal - va nos, Je - su, pro qui - bus vir - go, pro qui - bus
 Sal - va nos, Je - su, pro qui - bus vir - go,

46

pro qui - bus vir - go ma - ter te o -
 vir - go ma - ter te o -
 pro qui - bus vir - go ma - ter te o - rat,

50

- rat, ma - ter te o - - - - rat, ma -
 - rat, ma - ter te o - - - - rat, ma - ter te o - rat,
 ma - ter te o - - - - rat, ma - ter te o -

54

- ter te o - - - - rat.
 ma - ter te o - - - - rat.
 rat.

Translation

Star of Heaven, who suckled the Lord and rooted out the plague of death planted by the first parents of man; may this same star now deign to restrain the constellations whose battles slay the people with the ulcers of a terrible death. O glorious star of the sea, save us from the plague. Hear us: for your Son honours you, denying you nothing. Save us, Jesus, for whom the Virgin Mother prays to you.

Liturgical Function

A votive antiphon to the Virgin, praying for protection against the plague.

Editorial Conventions

The nomenclature of the voice-parts follows the Tudor convention.

The original clef, mensuration symbol and first note of each part are shown on the prefatory staves. At changes of mensuration the new symbol is shown above the staff.

Editorial accidentals are placed above the notes concerned.

Spelling of the text has been modernised.

A Comment on the Scoring

The intended scoring is not defined in the source and is by no means certain. The top part, although within the compass of the mean, is of low tessitura for that voice. Performance a major third lower would bring the voices within the compasses of countertenor, tenor and bass (tenor, baritone and bass in modern parlance), but it is then the middle voice that becomes of low tessitura. The middle voice has a compass of only an octave, d–d'. Such a narrow compass is, in Tudor music, typically the sign of a tenor part and d' is that voice's usual top note. This supports the scoring suggested in the edition. There is no evidence of falsetto singing in Tudor Britain.

Source

London, British Library MS R.M. 24.d.2 (c.1588–1606).

f.162^v header: iij: voc: m^r: thorne of yorke:--.
at end of M: m^r: iohn thorne:--. of yorke:--.

Notes on the Readings of the Source

In the notes below, each reference to a bar or group of bars is separated by an oblique stroke. Within these references multiple readings in the same voice are separated by commas and readings in different voices by semicolons. The order within each entry is: 1) bar number; 2) voice; 3) reading of the source. For extended references subsequent bar numbers are in brackets. Pitches are in capital letters, preceded by a number where necessary, e.g. ¹C = first note C in the bar. The sign + denotes a tie.

Staff Signatures and Accidentals

17 M # for ²F / 29 M # for ²F / 47 T ♭ for B / 54 M ♭ for B /

Underlay and Ligatures

13–14 B *hominum* undivided below DCBA / 16–17 T *hominum* undivided below ABGA /

Other Readings

1–2 M three breves rest / 9 M new staff with five lines begins with ¹F (and thus to end) / 32 all parts proportion sign ♩ at start of bar / 41 all parts mensuration symbol ♪ at start of bar / 56–57 B A+A is C+C /