

# Ave verum Corpus

Ave verum Corpus, natum de María Virgine:  
vere passum, immolátum in cruce pro homine:  
cujus latus perforátum unda fluxit sanguine.  
Esto nobis prægustatum in mortis exámine.  
O dulcis, O pie, O Jesu, Fili Mariæ,  
miserére mei. Amen.

*Hail true Body, born of the Virgin Mary:  
truly suffering, sacrificed on the cross for man:  
whose pierced side flowed with water [and] blood.  
Be to us a foretaste in death's agony.  
O sweet, O loving, O Jesus, Son of Mary,  
have mercy on me. Amen.*

*Hymn to the Blessed Sacrament*  
attrib. Pope Innocent VI (d. 1362)

William Byrd (1543-1623)  
Edited by [Mark Emerson Donnelly](#)

Soprano      Alto      Tenor      Bass

A - ve      rum Cor - pus,

A - ve      rum Cor - pus,

A - ve      ve      rum Cor - pus,

A - ve      ve      rum Cor - pus,

5

na - tum      de Ma - rí      - a      Vír - gi - ne:      Ve -

na - tum      de Ma - rí      - a      Vír - gi - ne:      Ve -

na - tum      de Ma - rí      - a      Vír - gi - ne:      Ve -

na - tum de Ma - rí - a      Vír - - gi - ne:      Ve -

Original key. **NOTE:** Often sung a semi- or whole-tone lower than written.  
Note values halved.

A musical score for "Ave verum" featuring four voices (SATB) and a basso continuo part. The music is in common time, with a key signature of one sharp (F#). The vocal parts are written in soprano, alto, tenor, and bass staves. The basso continuo part is shown below the bass staff, with a bass clef and a sharp sign indicating F# major. The score includes lyrics in Latin, with some words in Spanish (e.g., "repas-sum", "im-mo-lá-tum", "pro-hó-mí-ne"). Measure numbers 9, 14, and 18 are indicated at the top of each system.

9  
- re pas - sum, im - mo - lá - tum in cru - ce  
- re pas - sum, im - mo - lá - tum in cru - ce  
- re pas - sum, im - mo - lá - tum in cru - ce pro  
- re pas - sum, im - mo - lá - tum in cru - ce pro

14  
- pro hó - mí - ne: Cu - jus la - tus per - fo - rá -  
pro hó - mí - ne: Cu - jus la - tus per - fo -  
hó - mí - ne: Cu - jus la - tus per - fo -  
- pro hó - mí - ne: Cu - jus la - tus per - fo -

18  
- tum un - da flu - xit sán - guí - ne, sán - guí -  
rá - tum un - da flu - xit sán - guí - ne, sán - guí -  
rá - tum un - da flu - xit sán - guí -  
rá - tum un - da flu - xit sán - guí -

22

ne. Es - to no - - bis præ - gu - stá - tum in mor - - tis -  
 ne. Es - to no - - bis præ - gu - stá - tum in mor - - tis, in  
 ne. Es - to no - - bis præ-gu - stá - tum in mor - - tis -  
 ne. Es - to no - - bis præ - gu - stá - tum in mor - - tis -

27

- ex - á - - mi - ne. O dul - cis, O pi - -  
 mor - tis ex - á - - mi-ne. O dul - cis, O  
 - ex - á - - mi - ne. O dul - cis, O  
 tis ex - á - - mi - ne. O dul - cis, O

31

e, O Je - - su, Fi - - li Ma - ri - -  
 pi - e, O Je - - su, Fi - - li Ma - ri - -  
 pi - e, O Je - - su, Fi - - li Ma - ri - -  
 pi - e, O Je - - su, Fi - - li Ma - ri - -

Musical score for "Ave verum" (Ave Verum Corpus) in G major, 4/4 time. The score consists of four staves: Treble, Alto, Tenor, and Bass. The vocal parts sing in three-part harmony, with the Bass providing harmonic support. The lyrics are in Latin, with some words in French (e.g., "miserere"). The score includes dynamic markings such as forte and piano, and various performance techniques like grace notes and slurs. The vocal parts are primarily in common time, while the bass part often features measures in 6/8 time.

35

Ave verum Corpus Christi, mi - se - ré - re me -  
æ, mi - se - ré - re me - i, mi - se - ré - re,  
æ, mi - se - ré - re me - i, mi - se -

39

i, mi - se - ré - re me - i, me -  
mi - se - ré - re me - i, mi - se - ré - re me -  
ré - re me - i, me - i, mi - se - ré - re me -  
mi - se - ré - re me - i, mi - se - ré - re me -

43

i. O i. A - men.  
i. i. A (h) - men.  
i. i. A - men.  
i. i. A - men.