

# Ave Verum Corpus

SATB a cappella

William Byrd  
(1543-1623)

Soprano  
(SUPERIUS)

Alto  
(MEDIUS)

Tenor  
(TENOR)

Bass  
(BASSUS)

A - ve ve - rum cor - - pus,  
A - ve ve - rum cor - - pus,  
A - ve ve - rum cor - - pus,  
A - ve ve - rum cor - - pus,

5

na - tum de Ma - ri - - a Vir - gi - ne, Ve - re pas - sum, im -  
na - tum de Ma - ri - - a Vir - gi - ne, Ve - re pas - sum, im -  
na - tum de Ma - ri - - a Vir - gi - ne, Ve - re pas - sum, im -  
na - tum de Ma - ri - a Vir - - gi - ne, Ve - re pas - sum, im -

11

- mo - la - tum in cru - ce pro ho - mi - ne: Cu - jus la -  
- mo - la - - tum in cru - ce pro ho - mi - ne: Cu - jus la -  
- mo - la - tum in cru - ce pro ho - - mi - ne: Cu - jus la -  
- mo - la - tum in cru - ce pro ho - mi - ne: Cu - jus la -

17

-tus per - fo - ra - - tum, un - da flu - xit san - gui - ne, san - gui - ne; Es -

-tus per - fo - ra - tum, un - da flu - xit san - gui - ne, san - gui - ne; Es -

-tus per - fo - ra - tum, un - da flu - xit san - gui - ne; Es -

-tus per - fo - ra - tum, un - da flu - xit san - gui - ne; Es -

23

- to no - bis prae - gu - sta - tum in mor - tis ex - a - mi - ne. O

- to no - bis prae - gu - sta - tum in mor - tis, in mor - tis ex - a - mi - ne.

to no - bis prae - gu - sta - tum in mor - tis ex - a - mi - ne.

- to no - bis prae - gu - sta - tum in mor - tis ex - a - mi - ne.

29

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

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

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

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

35

ae; mi-se-re-re me-i, mi-se-re-re

ae; mi-se-re-re me-i, mi-se-re-re, mi-se-re-re me-i, mi-se-

ae; mi-se-re-re me-i, mi-se-re-re me-i, me-

ae; mi-se-re-re me-i, mi-se-re-re me-i, mi-

41

me-i, me-i, O-i. A-men.

-re-re-me-i. -i. A-men.

-i, mi-se-re-re me-i. -i. A-men.

-se-re-re me-i. -i. A-men.

SOURCE: *Gradualia*, revised edition, 1610 (originally pub. 1605)

NOTES: Note values halved, bar lines, slurs added. Tenor (m. 39), Alto (mm. 40-41): text underlay uncertain.

**TEXT/TRANSLATION:**

Ave verum corpus, natum de Maria Virgine,  
vere passum, immolatum in cruce pro homine:  
Cuius latus perforatum, Unda fluxit sanguine.  
Esto nobis praegustatum in mortis examine:  
O Dulcis, O pie, O Jesu fili Mariae,  
miserere mei. Amen.

*Hail true body, born of the Virgin Mary,  
Truly suffering, was sacrificed on the cross for mankind,  
From whose pierced side flowed blood,  
Be for us a foretaste in the final judgment.  
O sweet, O merciful, O Jesus, Son of Mary,  
Have mercy on me. Amen.*

**PERFORMANCE:** Directors may want to raise the pitch one step

edited by Rafael Ornes (4/24/99)