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Ecce Panis Angelorum
SATB

Sarah K. May

TRIN[✠]TAS
EXCELLENCE IN SACRED CHORAL MUSIC

Ecce Panis Angelorum
(Behold the Bread of Angels)

Sarah K. May

Preview

for Rev. Thomas J. Haan, STL,
in celebration of the 10th anniversary of his ordination to the priesthood

Ecce Panis Angelorum

(Behold the Bread of Angels)

From *Lauda Sion Salvatorem*, ca. 1264
St. Thomas Aquinas, 1225–1274

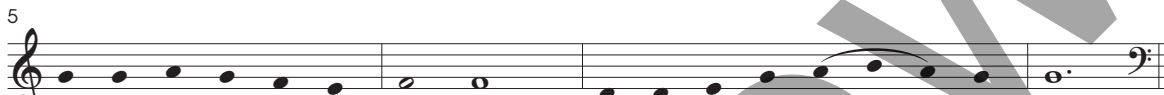
Sarah K. May

Simply (♩ = ca. 56)

Soprano
mp



Ec - ce pa - nis an - ge - ló - rum, fac - tus ci - bus vi - a - tó - rum:



ve - re pa - nis fi - li - ó - rum, non mit - tén - dus cá - ni - bus.



In fi - gú - ris prae - si - gná - tur, cum I - sá - ac im - mo - lá - tur:



a - gnus pas - chae de - pu - tá - tur da - tur man - na pá - tri - bus.

17 Soprano *mf* (no breath)

Alto

Tenor

Bass *mf*

Bo - ne pas - tor, pa - nis ve - re, Je - su, nos - tri mi - se - ré - re:

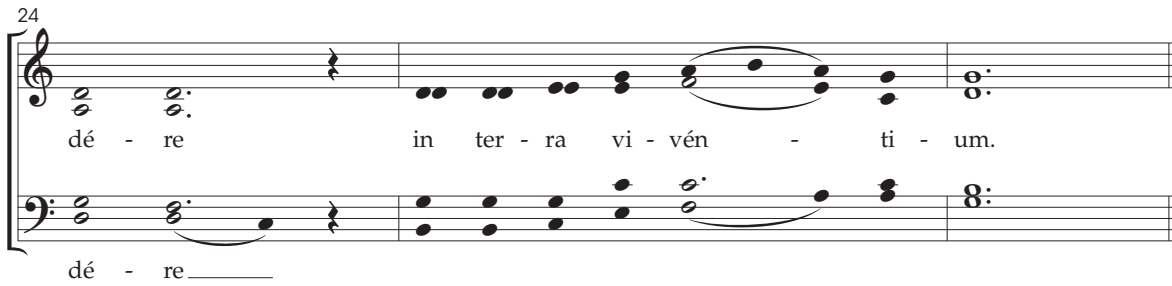
21 *mf*

tu nos pa - sce, nos tu - é - re: tu nos bo - na fac vi -

tu nos bo - na fac vi -

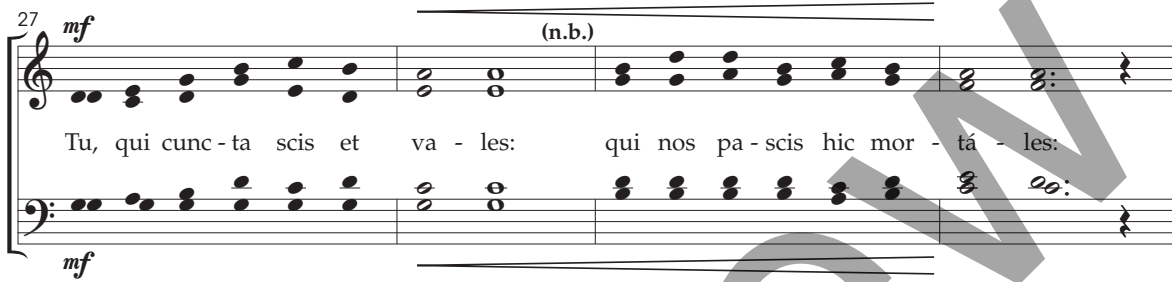
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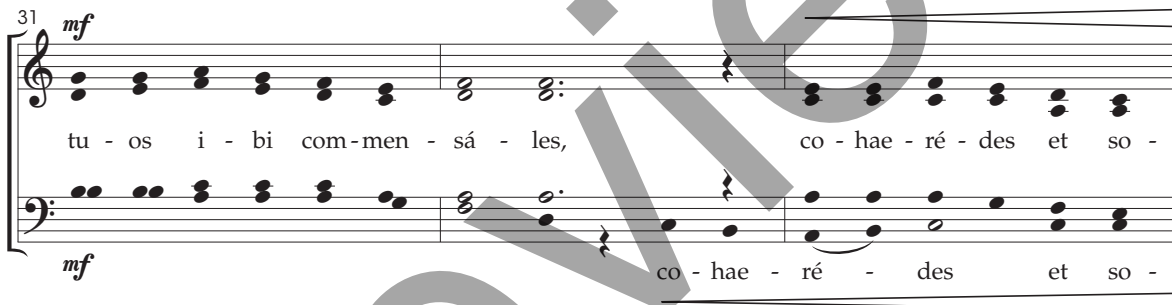
dé - re in ter - ra vi - vén - ti - um.
dé - re

27 *mf* (n.b.)



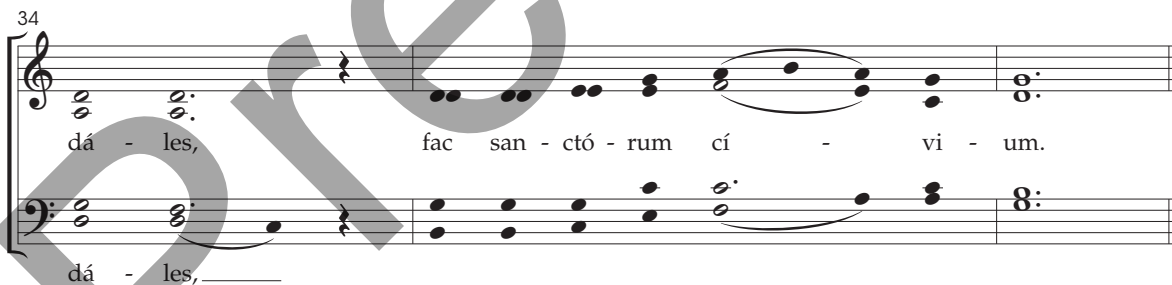
mf Tu, qui cunc - ta scis et va - les: qui nos pa - scis hic mor - tá - les:
mf co - hae - ré - des et so -

31 *mf*



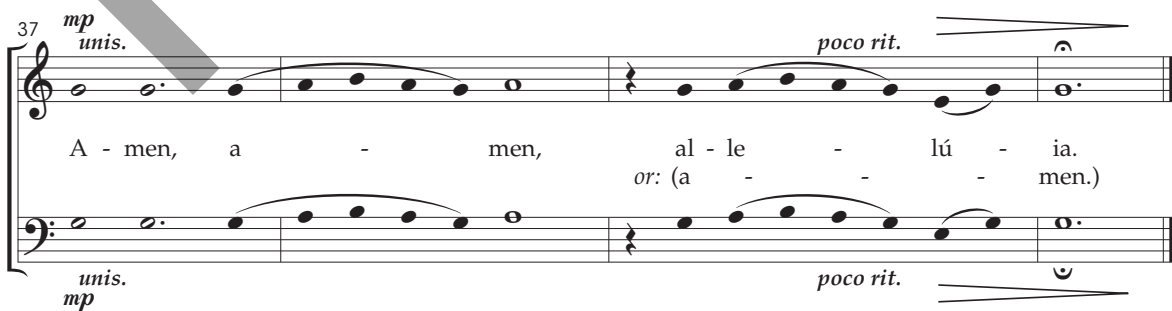
mf tu - os i - bi com - men - sá - les, co - hae - ré - des et so -
mf co - hae - ré - des et so -

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dá - les, fac san - ctó - rum cí - vi - um.
dá - les,

37 *mp unis.* *poco rit.*



mp unis. A - men, a - men, al - le - lú - ia. *poco rit.*
mp unis. or: (a - - men.) *poco rit.*

Translation

*Ecce panis angelórum,
factus cibus viatórum:
vere panis filiórum,
non mitténdus cánibus.*

*In figúris praesignátur,
cum Isáac immolátur:
agnus paschae deputátur
datur manna pátribus.*

*Bone pastor, panis vere,
Jesu, nostri miserére:
tu nos pasce, nos tuére:
tu nos bona fac vidére
in terra vivéntium.*

*Tu, qui cuncta scis et vales:
qui nos pascis hic mortáles:
tuos ibi commensáles,
cohaerédes et sodáles,
fac sanctórum cívium.*

Behold the Bread of Angels,
made the food of wayfarers:
Truly the bread of children,
not to be thrown to the dogs!

It was pre-signified in types,
when Isaac was brought to be sacrificed,
when the Paschal Lamb was chosen,
when manna was given to the ancestors.

Good shepherd, true bread,
Jesus, have mercy on us:
Feed us, protect us,
make us see good things
in the land of the living.

You who know and can do all things,
Who feed us mortals by this:
Make us guests at your table there,
coheirs and comrades
of the holy citizens.

Composer Notes

“*Ecce Panis Angelorum* (Behold the Bread of Angels)” was written for the Schola Cantorum at St. Louis de Montfort Catholic Church in Fishers, Indiana. While reading St. Thomas Aquinas’ sequences for the Feast of Corpus Christi, I found this particular text to be both profound and evocative: the bread of angels becomes food for travelers and bread for children. It is gratefully dedicated to the pastor of St. Louis de Montfort, whose zeal, reverence, and love for the Eucharist are a constant inspiration.

Aquinas’ text is paramount in this piece. The melody flows with the words in a style reminiscent of plainchant. The harmony is written in a simple mixolydian mode, with limited ranges; it is intended to be accessible to mixed choirs of any size. It may be sung *a cappella*, or lightly doubled on organ, if needed.

—Sarah K. May

