

Ellen Ruth Harrison

O Virga ac Diadema

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for three treble voices

2021

for Heri et Hodie/Yesterday and Today
Krista Cornish Scott, artistic director

Text by Hildegard von Bingen

O Virga ac Diadema is a setting of excerpts from Hildegard von Bingen's chant, a work of great depth and wisdom. It celebrates the feminine and expresses Hildegard's belief that the Virgin Mary and her son have restored life and light to our world. At the beginning, the piece follows the contours and rhythms of Hildegard's chant fairly closely. Soon, however, it moves in different directions, but nonetheless maintains a tone of deep reverence. It reflects and underscores the subtle shifts in Hildegard's images of the Virgin Mary.

For me, with each listening to Hildegard's chant, her words and ethereal music transport me to another plane. Here I have heard celestial voices singing and have found the inspiration for my musical setting of this esteemed text.

A huge thank you to the singers of Heri et Hodie/Yesterday and Today for their interest in my work and especially to Krista Cornish Scott for introducing me to this lovely and compelling chant.

Duration: circa 5 minutes
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O virga ac diadema

O virga ac diadema purple regis
que es in clausura tua sicut lorica:

Tu frondens floruisti . . .

Ave, ave, de tuo ventre alia vita processit
qua Adam filios suos denudaverat.

O flos, tu non germinasti de rore
nec de guttis pluvie
nec aer desuper te volavit sed divina
claritas in nobilissima virga te produxit.

O virga, floriditatem tuam Deus in prima die
creature sue previderat.

Et te Verbo suo auream materiam,
o laudabilis Virgo, fecit.

...

O Salvatrix . . .

-- Hildegard von Bingen

O branch and diadem in royal purple clad,
who like a shield stand in your cloister strong:

You burst forth blooming . . .

Hail, o hail! For from your womb came forth another life,
that had been stripped by Adam from his sons.

O bloom, you did not spring from dew
nor from the drops of rain,
nor has the windy air flown over you; but radiance
divine has brought you forth upon that noblest bough.

O branch, your blossoming God had foreseen
within the first day of his own creation.

And by his Word he made of you a golden matrix,
O Virgin, worthy of our praise.

O Lady Savior . . .

-- Nathaniel M. Campbell, translation

O Virga ac Diadema

Hildegard von Bingen

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$\text{♩} = 72$, with reverence

mp

SOPRANO 1
O vir - ga ac di - a-de-ma, ac

mp

SOPRANO 2
O vir - ga ac di - a-de-ma, O vir - ga ac di - a-de-ma

mp

ALTO
O vir - ga ac di - a - de-ma

$\text{♩} = 72$, with reverence

mp

Piano

5

mp

di - a-de-ma pur - pu-re re - gis que es in clau-su -

mp

pur-pu-re re-gis que es in clau-su -

mp

pu - pu-re re-gis que es in clau-su -

9 *mf* *mp* *p*

ra si-cut lo-ri - ca Tu fron - dens flo-

mf *mp* *p*

ra tu-a si-cut lo-ri-ca, si-cut lo-ri - ca Tu

mf *mp* *p*

ra si-cut lo-ri - ca Tu fron - dens flo-

14 *mp*

ru - is-ti, Tu fron - dens flo - ru - is - ti

mp *mf* *mp*

Tu fron - dens flo - ru - is-ti

mp

ru - is-ti, Tu fron-dens flo - ru - is - ti

18

mf < > *mp*

A - ve, A - ve de tu-o ven - tre A - -

mf *mp*

A - ve A - ve, A - ve, A - -

p *mp* *mf*

A - ve, A - ve a - li-a vi-ta pro-ces-

23

mp *f*

- ve qua A-dam fi - li - os su - os, fi - li - os su - os

p *f*

- ve qua A-dam fi - li - os su - os, fi - li - os su - os

mp *f*

- sit fi - li - os su - os, fi - li - os su - os

27 *f* *p* *mp*

de-nu-da-ve - rat O flos,

f *p* *mp* *mf*

de-nu-da - ve - rat O flos,

mf *p* *mp*

de-nu-da-ve - rat O flos,

32 *mf* *f* *mp* *mf*

O flos tu non ger-mi - na-sti de ro-re nec de gut-tis

mp *mf* *mp* *mf*

O flos tu non ger-mi - na-sti de ro-re nec de gut-tis

mp *mf*

O flos

37

plu - vi - e nec a - er de - su - per te ___ vo - la - vit

plu - vi - e nec a - er de - su - per te ___ vo - la - vit sed di - vi - na ___

mf

nec a - er de - su - per te ___ vo - la - vit sed di - vi - na ___

43

mp

di - vi - na ___ cla - ri - tas ___ in no - bi -

p *p* *mp*

cla - ri - tas ___ in no - bi - lis - si - ma, ___

p *p* *mp*

cla - ri - tas ___ in no - bi - lis - si - ma, ___

51

lis - si-ma vir-ga te pro - du - xit

no-bi - li - si-ma vir-ga pro - du - xit

no-bi - lis - si-ma vir-ga pro - du -

58

O vir-ga flo - ri-di-ta-tem tu-am, flo -

O vir-ga flo - ri-di-ta-tem tu-am, vir-ga flo - ri-di-ta-tem tu-am

-xit O vir ga flo - ri-di-ta-tem tu-am

64

ri - di-ta-tem tu-am De-us, De - us,

De-us in pri-ma di-e cre-a-tu-re

De-us in pri-ma di-e cre-a-tu-re

68

De - us Et te ver - bo su - o, ver - bo

su - e pre - vi - de - rat Et te ver - bo su - o, ver - bo

su - e pre - vi - de - rat Ver - bo su - o, ver - bo

74 *f* *f* *mp* *mf*

su-o au-re-am ma-te - ri - am fe - cit

su-o au-re-am ma-te - ri - am fe - cit

su-o ma-te - ri-am fe - cit

79 $\text{♩} = 60$ *mp* *mf* *mf* *f*

O lau - da - bi - lis, O lau - da-bi-lis

O lau - da-bi-lis, O lau - da-bi-lis

O lau - da bi - lis, O lau - da - bi - lis

84 *mf*

Vir-go, O Sal - va-trix Vir-go, O Sal - va - trix

Vir-go, O Sal - va-trix Vir-go, O Sal - va-tri(x) A - ve,

Vir-go, O Sal - va-trix Vir-go, O Sal - va - trix

89 *mf* *mp* *p*

A - ve,

A - ve, A - ve

A - ve,

A - ve

A - ve

A - ve