

William Campbell

VENI, REDEEMPTOR
(COME, REDEEMER)

for SATB Chorus

FOR PERUSAL USE ONLY

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Veni, Redemptor (Come, Redeemer)

for SATB Chorus

Commissioned by Richard Geiger for the Academy for the Study of St. Ambrose of Milan

"Veni, Redemptor (Come, Redeemer)" is a new composition based on a hymn written in the 4th Century by St. Ambrose of Milan. The hymn was originally titled, "Intende qui regis Israel," and the words invite Christ's presence into this world through the mystery of the Virgin Mary in explicitly trinitarian language. It is traditionally sung in the season of Advent. The music sounds very much like what we would consider to be a chant, but in a style that was specific to Ambrose, and came to be known as Milanese or Ambrosian in style. This chant style is still practiced in Milan today.

I folded the original melody and words of St. Ambrose into my music as foundational material, adding harmony parts, new melodic material, and changing the key at a couple points. The original melody is always present even as other parts are added to it, and my hope is that these parts add to the meaning of the text, and add interest for our contemporary sensibilities. It is composed for the standard four chorus parts of soprano, alto, tenor, bass. To stay true to the prayerful nature of the words, it starts out quite slow and quiet with the women invoking the chant as sung by the men of the choir. The music gradually builds and reaches its high point during two separate verses about the light of God shining and shimmering. For this music all the voices are high in their range, particularly the sopranos. The music fades away and ends with a recasting of the chant and a final Amen sung by all.

1. Veni, Redemptor gentium;
Ostende partum virginis;
Miretur omne saeculum.
Talis decet partus Deo.
2. Begotten of no human will,
But of the Spirit, You are still
The Word of God in flesh arrayed,
The promised Fruit to man displayed.
3. The virgin's honor still remains
Yet from within her the womb swells.
Virtue's standards shine and shimmer
God within his temple ever dwells.
4. Procedit e thalamo suo,
Pudoris aulo regia,
Geminae gigans substantiae
Alacris ut currat viam.
5. O equal to the Father, Thou!
Gird on Thy fleshly mantle now;
The weakness of our mortal state
With deathless might invigorate.
6. Thy cradle here shall glitter bright,
And darkness breathe a newer light,
Where endless faith shall shine serene,
And twilight never intervene
7. Sit Christe Rex piissime,
tibi Patrique gloria,
cum Spiritu Paraclito,
in sempiterna saecula. Amen.

Duration: approximately 5'40"

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Veni Redemptor ("Come Redeemer")

for SATB Chorus

William Campbell

Original hymn & words, St. Ambrose of Milan (340-397)

English Trans. John Mason Neale & William Campbell

Slowly moving; with reverence

♩ = 60

Soprano

Alto

Piano Reduction
(for rehearsal only)

O come, re - deem - er O come, re -

O come, re - deem - er O come, re -

S

A

deem - er of the earth. O come,

deem - er of the earth. O come,

Rubato; flowing chant

S

A

T
B

All men: *mp*

O

O

All men: *mp*

Ve - ni Re - dem - ptor Gen - ti - um, o - sten - de par - tum Vir - gi - nis,

14

S

A

T

B

mi - re - tur o - mne - sea - cu - lum, ta - lis de - cet par - tus De - um.

Tempo Primo
♩ = 60
mp

16

S

A

T

B

Be - got - ten of no hu - man will, But of the Spi - rit,

Be - got - ten of no hu - man will, But of the Spi - rit,

Be - got - ten of no hu - man will, But of the Spi - rit,

Be - got - ten of no hu - man will, But of the Spi - rit,

19

S Spi - rit, You are still The Word of God in flesh ar -

A You are still The Word of God in flesh ar -

T You are still The Word of God in flesh ar -

B You are still The Word of God in flesh ar -

22

S rayed, The pro - mised Fruit to man dis - played.

A rayed, The pro - mised Fruit to man dis - played.

T rayed, The pro - mised Fruit to man dis - played.

B rayed, The pro - mised Fruit to man dis - played.

Veni Redemptor Gentium

25 *mp*

S The vir - gin's ho - nor still re - mains

A *mp* The vir - gin's ho - nor still re - mains Yet

T *mp* The vir - gin's ho - nor still re - mains

B *mp* The vir - gin's ho - nor still re - mains

28

S Yet from with - in her the womb swells.

A from with - in her the womb swells.

T *mp* Yet from with - in her the womb swells.

B *mp* Yet from with - in her the womb swells.

31

mp *cresc.*

S Vir - tue's stan - dards shine shine

mp *cresc.*

A Vir - tue's stan - dards shine Vir - tue's stan - dards

mp *cresc.*

T Vir - tue's stan - dards shine Vir - tue's stan - dards

mp *cresc.*

B Vir - tue's stan - dards shine Vir - tue's stan - dards

33

(cresc) *f*

S shine shine and shim - mer

(cresc) *f*

A Vir - tue's stan - dards Vir - tue's stan - dards shine and shim - mer

(cresc)

T Vir - tue's stan - dards Vir - tue's stan - dards shine and shim - mer

(cresc)

B Vir - tue's stan - dards Vir - tue's stan - dards shine and shim - mer

* = Soprano divisi with optional soloist on top part.

Veni Redemptor Gentium

36 *mf* *mp*

S shine and shim - mer shine and shim - mer

A *mf* *mp*

A shine and shim - mer shine and shim - mer

T *mf* *mp*

T shine and shim - mer shine and shim - mer

B *mf* *mp*

B shine and shim - mer shine and shim - mer

38

S God in his tem - ple ev - er dwells.

A God in his tem - ple ev - er dwells.

T God ev - er dwells.

B God ev - er dwells.

Rubato; flowing chant

41 *pp*

S O

A O

T B All men: *mp*

Pro - ce - dat e tha - la - mo su - o, Pu - do - ris au - lo re - gi - a,

44

S

A

T B

Ge - mi - nae gi - gans sub - stan - ti - ae Al - a - cris ut cur - rat vi - am.

Tempo Primo

♩ = 60

46 *mp*

S O e - qual to e - ter - nal God Be - com - ing

A O e - qual to e - ter - nal God Be - com - ing man to

T O e - qual to e - ter - nal God Be - com - ing man to

B O e - qual to e - ter - nal God Be - com - ing man to

mp

49

S man to save our race You for - ti - fy our frail

A save our race You for - ti - fy our frail

T save our race You for - ti - fy our frail

B save our race You for - ti - fy our frail

52

S form With strength that will en - dure al - ways.

A form With strength that will en - dure al - ways.

T form With strength that will en - dure al - ways.

B form With strength that will en - dure al - ways.

55

S *mp* Your cra - dle here shall glit - ter bright,

A *mp* Your cra - dle here shall glit - ter bright, And

T *mp* Your cra - dle here shall glit - ter bright,

B *mp* Your cra - dle here shall glit - ter bright,

58

S And dark - ness breathe a new - er light,

A dark - ness breathe a new - er light, —

T And dark - ness breathe a new - er light,

B And dark - ness breathe a new - er light,

61

mp *cresc.*

S Con - stant faith shall

mp

A Con - stant faith Con - stant faith

mp *cresc.*

T Con - stant faith Con - stant faith

mp *cresc.*

B Con - stant faith Con - stant faith

mp *cresc.*

63

(cresc) *f*

S shine shine for - ev - er

(cresc) *f*

A Con - stant faith Con - stant faith shall shine for - ev - er

(cresc) *f*

T Con - stant faith Con - stant faith shall shine for - ev - er

(cresc) *f*

B Con - stant faith Con - stant faith shall shine for - ev - er

(cresc) *f*

66 *mf* shine for - ev - er *mp* shine for - ev - er

A *mf* shine for - ev - er *mp* shine for - ev - er

T *mf* shine for - ev - er *mp* shine for - ev - er

B *mf* shine for - ev - er *mp* shine for - ev - er

68 Through all our fears in the night.

A Through all our fears in the night.

T Through the night.

B Through the night.

Rubato; flowing chant

71 *p*

S Ah

A Ah

T *mp*
All men:

B Sit Chri - ste Rex pi - is - si - me,

73

S (Ah)

A (Ah)

T

B ti - bi Pa - tri - que glo - ri - a, cum Spi - ri - tu Pa - ra - cli - to,

75 *,pp*

S (Ah) A - men.

A (Ah) A - men.

T in sem - pi - ter - na sae - cu - la. A - men. —

B in sem - pi - ter - na sae - cu - la. A - men.