

Personent hodie voces pueru-

B 4

la lan.

Personent Hodie

Arranged by Randall Donald

ISMN 979-0-9025253-1-2

Personent hodie is a Christmas carol originally published in the 1582 Finnish song book *Piae Cantiones*. A melody found in a 1360 German manuscript is highly similar, and it is from this manuscript that the music is usually dated. The carol became more prominent in England after being arranged for unison voices and orchestra in 1916 by Gustav Holst.

This arrangement is written for a choir that usually sings SAB music and can split the soprano. Originally notated in D Dorian and sung by male voices, this version is transposed up a whole tone for a better fit for women's voices and harmony. There is a simple hand drum line included but feel free to make up your own.

Latin Text

Personent hodie
voces puerulae,
laudantes iucunde
qui nobis est natus,
summo Deo datus,
et de vir, vir, vir
et de virgineo ventre procreatus.

In mundo nascitur,
pannis involvitur
praesepe ponitur
stabulo brutorum,
rector supernorum.
Perdidit, dit, dit,
perdidit spolia principis infernorum.

Magi tres venerunt,
munera offerunt,
parvulum inquirunt,
stellulam sequendo,
ipsum adorando,
aurum, thus, thus, thus,
aurum, thus,
et myrrham ei offerendo.

Omnes clericuli,
pariter pueri,
cantent ut angeli:
advenisti mundo,
laudes tibi fundo.
Ideo, o, o,
ideo gloria in excelsis Deo

Pronunciation

o is closer to aw than oh
e is more like eh than ay
a is like a in father
h is silent

Pehr-son-ehnt o-dee-eh
vo-chehs poo-eh-roo-leh
laoo-dan-tehs yoo-koon-deh
quee no-bees ehst na-toos
soo-mo deh-o da-toos
eht deh veer-jee-neh-o
vehn-treh pro-kreh-a-toos

Een moon-do na-shee-toor
pan-nees een-vol-vee-toor
preh-seh-pee po-nee-toor
sta-boo-lo broo-to-room
rek-tor su-pehr-no-room
pehr-dee-deet spo-lee-a
preen-chehs een-fehr-no-room

Ma-jee trehs veh-neh-roont
moon-neh-ra o-fehr-roont
par-voo-loom een-quee-roont
stehl-loo-lam seh-quehn-do
eep-soom a-do-ran-do
aoo-room toos eht meer-am
ehee of-fehr-ehh-do

om-nehs kleh-ree-koo-lee
pa-ree-tehr pu-eh-ree
kant-ehnt oot an-jeh-lee
ad-vehn-nee-stee moon-do
laoo-dehs tee-bee foon-do
ee-eh-o glo-ree-a een ehk-shehl-sees
deh-o

English Translation

Let resound today
the voices of children,
joyfully praising
Him who is born to us,
given by most high God,
and conceived in a virginal womb.

He was born into the world,
wrapped in swaddling clothes,
and laid in a manger
in a stable for animals,
the master of the heavens.
The prince of Hell has lost his spoils.

Three Magi came,
they were bearing gifts,
and sought the little one,
following a star,
to worship him,
and offer him gold,
frankincense, and myrrh.

Let all priests
just like the boys
sing like angels:
"You have come to the world,
I pour out praises to you.
Therefore, glory to God in the highest!"

Personent Hodie

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For SSAB a cappella

Words from Piae Cantiones (1582)

German Melody 1360
arranged by Randall Donald

$\text{♩} = 75$ *mf*

Baritone

1. Per - son - ent ho - di - e vo - ces pu -

Hand Drum (optional)

6

- e - ru - lae lau - dan - tes iu - cun - de qui no - bis est nat - us,

11 *Alto mf*

et de vir, vir, vir et de vir, vir, vir

sum - mo De - o da - tus, et de vir, vir, vir et de vir, vir, vir

17 *Soprano mf*

2. In mun - do

et de vir - gi - ne - o ven - tre pro - cre - at - us. 2. In mun - do

et de vir - gi - ne - o ven - tre pro - cre - at - us. 2. In mun - do

23

nas - ci - tur pan - nis in - vol - vi - tur prae - se - pi po - ni - tur sta - bu - lo bru -

nas - ci - tur pan - nis in - vol - vi - tur prae - se - pi po - ni - tur sta - bu - lo bru -

nas - ci - tur pan - nis in - vol - vi - tur prae - se - pi po - ni - tur sta - bu - lo bru -

29

- to - rum, rec - tor su - per - no - rum. Per - di - dit, dit, dit, Per - di - dit,

- to - rum, rec - tor su - per - no - rum. Per - di - dit, dit, dit, Per - di - dit,

- to - rum, rec - tor su - per - no - rum. Per - di - dit, dit, dit, Per - di - dit,

35

dit, dit, per - di - dit spo - li - a prin - ceps in - fer - no - rum.

dit, dit, per - di - dit spo - li - a prin - ceps in - fer - no - rum.

dit, dit, per - di - dit spo - li - a prin - ceps in - fer - no - rum.

40 Soprano *p*

3. Ma - gi tres ve - ne - runt, mu - ne - ra of - fe - runt, par - vu - lum in - qui - runt,

Alto *p*

3. Ma - gi tres ve - ne - runt, mu - ne - ra of - fe - runt, par - vu - lum in - qui - runt,

47 Melody in S2.

stel - lu - lam se - quen - do ip - sum a - do - ran - do, au - rum thus, thus, thus,

stel - lu - lam se - quen - do ip - sum a - do - ran - do, au - rum thus, thus, thus,

53

au - rum thus, thus, thus, au - rum thus, et myrr - ham e - i of - fe - ren - do.

au - rum thus, thus, thus, au - rum thus, et myrr - ham e - i of - fe - ren - do.

59 *piu mosso* SAB *f*

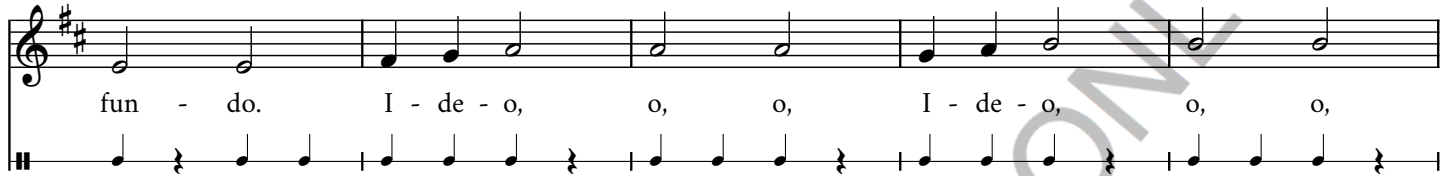
4. Om - nes cle - ri - cu - li, pa - ri - ter pu - e - ri, can - tent ut

65



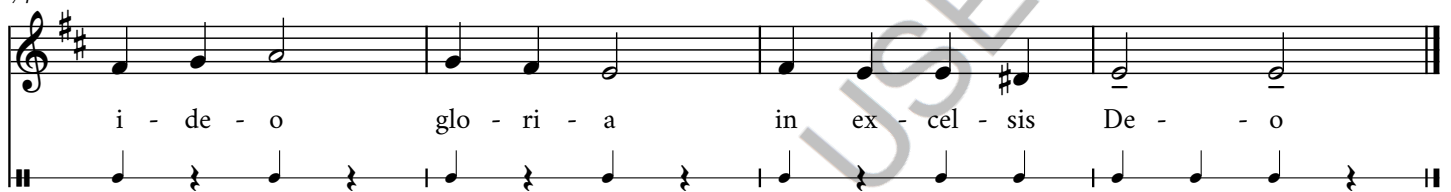
an - ge - li: ad - ve - ni - sti mun - do, lau - des ti - bi

69



fun - do. I - de - o, o, o, I - de - o, o, o,

74

molto rit......


i - de - o glo - ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - - o



Randall Donald is a chorister, composer, system administrator and farmer. He received his degree from Simon Fraser University. Originally from North Vancouver, he now lives in Parksville on Vancouver Island, Canada with his wife and daughter.