

# Optimam partem elegit

William Byrd (c.1540-1623)

Superius [Soprano] Op - ti - mam par - tem e - - le - git, e -

Medius [Alto] Op - ti - mam par - tem e - le - - - -

Contratenor [Tenor] Op - ti - mam par - tem e - le - git,

Tenor [Tenor]

Bassus [Bass]

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- le - git, op - ti - mam par - tem e - le -

- git, op - ti - mam par - tem e -

op - ti - mam par - tem e - - le - git, e - le - - -

Op - ti - mam par - tem e - le - - - - git, e - le -

Op - ti - mam par - tem e - le - git, e - le -

- git si - bi Ma - ri - a, si -

- le - - git si - bi Ma - ri - a, Ma - ri - a, si - bi Ma - ri - a,

- git si - bi Ma - ri - a, si - bi Ma - ri - a, si - bi Ma -

- - - git si - bi Ma - ri - a, si -

- git si - bi Ma - ri - a, si - bi Ma - ri -

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- bi Ma - ri - a, quæ no au - fe - re - tur,  
 Ma - ri - - a, quæ non au - fe - re - tur, quæ  
 -ri - a, quæ non au - fe - re - tur, quæ non au -  
 - bi Ma - ri - a, quæ non au - fe - re - tur,  
 - a, quæ non au - fe - re - tur,

quæ non au - fe - re - tur ab e - a in æ - ter -  
 non au - fe - re - tur ab e - a in æ - ter - - num, quæ non au - fe -  
 - fe - re - tur, quæ non au - fe - re - tur, quæ non au - fe -  
 au - fe - re - tur, quæ non au - fe - re - tur ab e - a in  
 quæ non au - fe - re - tur, quæ non au - fe - re - tur

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- num, ab e - a in æ - ter - num, ab e - a  
 - re - tur ab e - a, ab e - a in æ - ter - num, ab  
 - re - tur ab e - a in æ - ter - num, in æ - ter -  
 æ - ter - num, ab e - a in æ - ter - num,  
 ab e - a in æ - ter - num, ab

in æ - ter - num, ab e - a in æ - ter -  
e - - - a in æ - ter - num, in æ - ter - num,  
- num, ab e - - a in æ - ter - num, in æ - ter -  
in æ - ter - num, ab e - - - - a  
e - - a in æ - ter - - - - num, in  
- num, in æ - ter - - - - num.  
in æ - ter - - - - num.  
- num, in æ - ter - - - - num.  
in æ - ter - - - - num.  
æ - ter - - - - num.

Source: William Byrd: *Gradualia, ac cantiones sacræ... Liber primus* (2nd edition, 1610), vol.1 no.25.  
Text: Luke 10: 42

Liturgical function: Mass, the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin:

Introit: Gaudeamus omnes  
Gradual & Alleluia: Propter veritatem - Assumpta est Maria  
Offertory: Assumpta est Maria  
**Communion: Optimam partem elegit**

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