

# First Born of Creation

Roger Petrich

*Moderately*  
♩ = 88

Tenor I  
Re - sur - re - xi et ad - huc te - cum sum. et

Tenor II  
Re - sur - re - xi et ad - huc te - cum sum. et

Baritone I  
Re - sur - re - xi et ad - huc te - cum sum. Re - sur - re - xi et

Baritone II  
Re - sur - re - xi et ad - huc te - cum sum. Re - sur - re - xi et

Bass I  
Re - sur - re - xi et ad - huc

Bass II  
Re - sur - re - xi et ad - huc

## A performance interpretive note from the composer:

"Resurrexi et adhuc tecum sum." "I arose and am still with you!" Thus does Jesus greet us in the INTROIT for the Liturgy of Easter Sunday. I have also kept the musical motif of the traditional chant associated with this text. The music needs to be rhythmically vital, with an eagerness, even startling quality, yet also consoling and reassuring.

When the Resurrected Jesus confronted Thomas with the challenge "Put your finger here, and look at my hands; then reach out your hand and put it in my side. Stop your doubting, and believe!" Thomas could only answer "My Lord and my God!"

I have tried to imagine a similar moment, not one on one, but with the community. Their response is taken from the "Hymn to Christ" from Paul's letter to the Colossians. In his letter, St Paul speaks about Christ in the third person- "He is..." but in my musical setting here, I have chosen instead to address Christ directly - "You are..." as did Thomas.

These invocations, these titles, these outbursts of adoration need a somewhat different musical embodiment. The rhythms are more free, more flexible. A sacramental moment when past and future disappear, and a grace filled "now" fills the soul.

Though the music is scored in six voices, it is only rarely that six-note harmonies are needed, though when needed a careful balancing of the parts will be also required. Though a large chorus may be employed, this may also be performed by a small ensemble, perhaps even an ensemble of solo voices, given due regard for balance issues.

Roger Petrich

6

TI  
ad - huc te-cum sum. Re - sur - re - xi Re - sur - re - xi et ad - huc te-cum sum. *ff*

TII  
ad - huc te-cum sum. Re - sur - re - xi Re - sur - re - xi et ad - huc te-cum *ff*

Bar. II  
ad - huc te-cum sum. Re - sur - re - xi Re - sur - re - xi te-cum sum. Re - *ff* *mf*

6

Bar II  
ad - huc te-cum sum. Re - sur - re - xi Re - sur - re - xi te-cum sum. Re - *ff* *mf*

BI  
te - cum sum. ad - huc te - cum sum. *ff*

BII  
te - cum sum. ad - huc te - cum sum. *ff*

11

TI  
*f*  
Re - sur - re - xi Re - sur - re - xi et ad - huc te-cum sum.

TII  
*f*  
Re - sur - re - xi Re - sur - re - xi et ad - huc te-cum sum.

Bar. II  
sur - re - xi et ad - huc te - cum sum.

11

Bar II  
sur - re - xi et ad - huc te - cum sum.

BI  
*f*  
Re - sur - re - xi ad - huc te - cum sum.

BII  
*f*  
Re - sur - re - xi ad - huc te - cum sum.

16 *mp*  
Non-metric, chanting freely

TI  
You are the im-age of the in-vi-si-ble God

TII  
You are the im-age of the in-vi-si-ble God

Bar II

Bar II

BI

BII

*mp*  
Non-metric, chanting freely

You are

21 Non-metric, chanting freely

TI

TII

Bar II

Bar II

BI

BII

*mf*  
Non-metric, chanting freely

*f*

You are be-fore all things. In you

*mf*

*f*

You are be-fore all things. In you

the first born of cre-a-tion. be-fore all things. In you

be-fore all things. In you

27 *f* *Returning to the rhythm of the beginning* *mf*

TI all things hold to - geth - er. et ad - huc te - cum

TII all things hold to - geth - er. et ad - huc te - cum

Bar II *mf* Re - sur - re - xi et ad - huc te - cum

Bar II 27 *mf* Re - sur - re - xi et ad - huc te - cum

BI *mf* Re - sur - re - xi et ad - huc te - cum

BII *mf* sur - re - xi et ad - huc te - cum

32 *ff* *Pushing forward once more*

TI sum. Re - sur - re - xi Re - sur - re - xi et ad - huc te - cum sum. *ff*

TII sum. Re - sur - re - xi Re - sur - re - xi et ad - huc te - cum *ff*

Bar II sum. Re - sur - re - xi Re - sur - re - xi te - cum sum. *ff* *mf* Re - sur - re - xi

Bar II 32 sum. Re - sur - re - xi Re - sur - re - xi te - cum sum. *ff* *mf* Re - sur - re - xi

BI sum. ad - huc te - cum sum. *ff*

BII sum. ad - huc te - cum sum. *ff*

37 *f* *mp*  
Non-metric, chanting freely

TI  
8 Re-sur - re - xi Re-sur - re - xi et ad - huc te - cum sum. You are  
*mp*

TII  
8 Re-sur - re - xi Re-sur - re - xi et ad - huc te - cum sum. You are

Bar. II  
et ad - huc te - cum sum.

Bar II  
37 et ad - huc te - cum sum.

BI  
*f* Re-sur - re - xi ad - huc te - cum sum.

BII  
*f* Re-sur - re - xi ad - huc te - cum sum.

43

TI  
8 the head of the bo - dy.

TII  
8

Bar. II  
*mf*  
You are

Bar II  
43  
*mf*  
You are

BI  
*mp*  
Non-metric, chanting freely  
You are the Be - gin - ning.

BII  
*mp*  
You are the Be - gin - ning.

49

TI

8

the Lord of

TII

8

the Lord of

Bar. II

the First-born from the dead. You are The Lord of Life.

49

Bar II

the First-born from the dead. You are The Lord of Life.

BI

the First-born from the dead. You are The Lord of Life.

BII

the First-born from the dead. You are The Lord of Life.

55

*Broadening to the close*

TI

8

Life. The First - born, The Lord

TII

8

Life. The First - born, The Lord

Bar. II

The First - born, et ad-huc te-cum sum.

55

Bar II

Re-sur - re-xi et ad-huc te-cum sum.

BI

Re sur - re-xi Re-sur - re-xi The Lord

BII

Re - sur - re-xi The Lord