# O lux beata Trinitas

Edited by Jason Smart

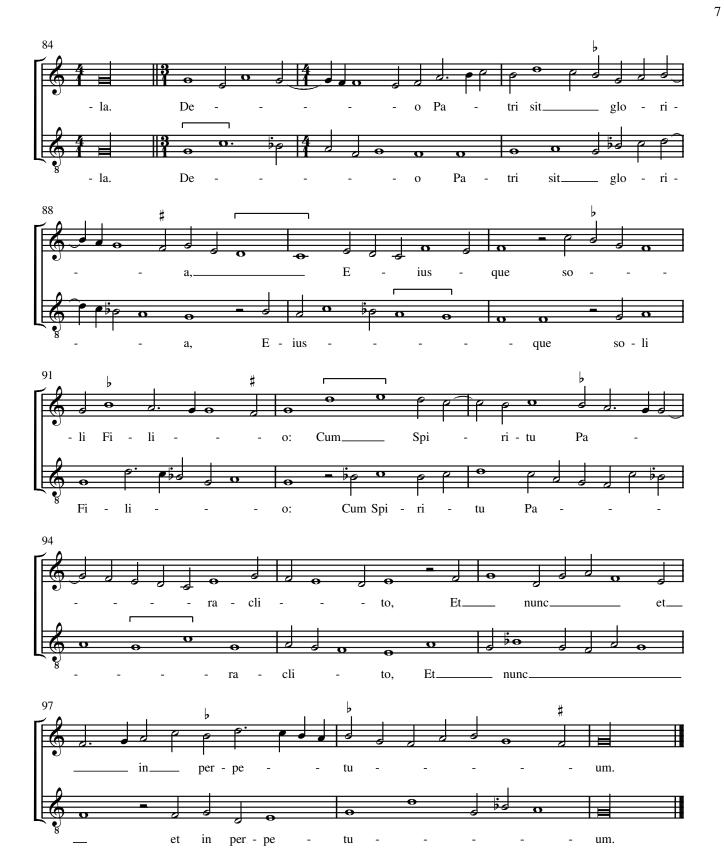
Anon. (15th cent.)











#### **Translation**

- 1. O blessed light, O Trinity and original Unity, now the fiery sun departs, infuse light into our hearts.
- 2. To you we sing praise in the morning, to you we pray in the evening; may our prayer praise you with glory through the ages.
- 3. Glory be to God the Father, and to his only Son, together with the Holy Paraclete, now and forever.

#### The Music

*O lux beata Trinitas* was the hymn at Vespers on Saturdays between the Sunday after Trinity and Advent. In the present composition all three verses of the hymn are set, but the Amen is not included. David Fallows has dated the work to the 1440s. Performance will have been by two soloists.

#### **Editorial Conventions**

The original clef, staff signature, mensuration symbol and first note of each part are shown on the prefatory staves at the start of the piece.

Editorial accidentals are placed above the notes concerned and remain operative throughout the bar. The second voice has a Bb staff signature throughout. Accidentals in the score arising from this signature are placed before the note and have a superscript dot. Two explicit naturals for Bs are retained in the score. B naturals in voice II without an explicit accidental have been raised editorially.

Ligatures are denoted by the sign .

The underlay in the source is often imprecise. Most ambiguities have been tacitly resolved, but the more significant adjustments are noted below.

Underlay between square brackets is entirely editorial.

### Source

London, British Library, Add. MS 5665 (the 'Ritson Manuscript'; c.1435–c.1510), f.60<sup>v</sup>.

## Notes on the Readings of the Source

In the notes below, each reference to a bar or group of bars is separated by an oblique stroke. Within these references multiple readings in the same voice are separated by commas and readings in different voices by semicolons. The order within each entry is: 1) bar number(s); 2) voice(s); 3) reading of the source. For extended references subsequent bar numbers are in brackets. Pitches are given in capital letters and preceded by a number where necessary, e.g.  ${}^{1}E = 1$ st note E in the bar.

9 I B is a corrected minim / 25 I F is a corrected minim / 32 I -dit below B / 36 I -us below F (not in 44) / 41 I FG for <sup>1</sup>EF / 47 II -de below G / 57 I II mensuration symbol C before 1st note / 59 II -ne below G / 63 I -ne below <sup>1</sup>G / 66 II -mur below F / 70 I II -re for -ri / 77 II -a below <sup>2</sup>E (not in 78) / 86 I -o below E, Patri undivided below <sup>3</sup>FAB; II -o below G, (86–87) Patri undivided below <sup>2</sup>F<sup>3</sup>F<sup>2</sup>G / 87–88 I gloria ambiguously aligned below GABA / 88 I Eius ambiguously aligned below F<sup>2</sup>GE / 89 II -que below <sup>2</sup>A (not in 90) / 91 II -o below A / 92 I -li below G, Filio below <sup>1</sup>DE<sup>2</sup>D, Cum below C, (93) Spiritu below <sup>2</sup>C<sup>2</sup>BA, (94) -tu (again) below <sup>2</sup>E, Pa- below <sup>2</sup>G, (95) -raclibelow F<sup>1</sup>E / 94 II -ra- below <sup>1</sup>G and again, on new line, below <sup>2</sup>G / 96 II nunc ambiguously aligned below B<sup>2</sup>GF, et below <sup>3</sup>G, (97) in perpe- below <sup>2</sup>FGD / 98 II -ti- for -tu- /

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> David Fallows, Henry V and the Earliest English Carols: 1413-1440 (Abingdon: Routledge, 2018), p.123.