

# Agnus Dei

## Source:

*A Plain and Easy Introduction to Practical Music*  
by Thomas Morley, published 1597, reprinted 1771.

Motet, *quatuor vocum*, pp. 256-257:

*Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi, miserere nostri.*

Thomas Morley (ca. 1557-1602)

Edited by Charles H. Giffen

The image shows a musical score for the motet 'Agnus Dei' by Thomas Morley. It consists of five staves: Cantus, Altus, Tenor, Bassus, and Reh. only. The Cantus part is a single line in G major, 4/4 time, with lyrics 'A - gnus De -'. The Altus part is a single line in G major, 4/4 time, with lyrics 'A - gnus De - - - i, A - gnus De - i,'. The Tenor part is a single line in G major, 4/4 time, with lyrics 'A - gnus De - - - i, qui tol - - - - - lis, qui tol -'. The Bassus part is a single line in G major, 4/4 time, with lyrics 'A - gnus De - - - - i,'. The Reh. only part consists of two staves (treble and bass clefs) in G major, 4/4 time, providing harmonic support for the vocal parts. The score includes various musical notations such as clefs, time signatures, notes, rests, and accidentals.

**Edition notes:** Except for barring and modernization of clefs and other notation, this edition is faithful to the source as presented in the four parts set out in Morley's 1597 treatise. The parenthesized *musica ficta* in mm. 14, 15, and 47 in the Tenor part represent additions that are not in the 1597 source but appear (in score) in the well-intended but inaccurate Appendix to the 1771 reprinting by William Randall: these are either copyist errors or anonymous editorial additions from a later time. Other *musica ficta* (by the present editor) are marked as usual without parentheses. Some modern editions include accidentals (that are not marked as *musica ficta*) which do not accord with the 1597 source. For example, some editions provide an ill-advised E natural instead of the E flat in the Cantus part in m. 65 (which is clearly flatted in the source).



31

mun - - - - di, mi - se - re -  
- - - - - di, mi - se - re - re no - stri, no - - -  
- - - - - di, mi - se - re - re no - stri, no -  
- - - - - di, mi - se - re - re no - - - - -

31

41

re no - stri, mi - se - re - re no - - - - -  
- - - - - stri, mi - se - re - re no - - - - -  
- - - - - stri, mi - se - re - re no - - - - -  
stri, mi - se - re - re no - - - - -

41

51

stri, mi - se - re - re no - - - - - stri,  
 - - - - - stri, mi - se - re - re no - - - - - stri, mi - se -  
 8 stri, mi - se - re - re no - - - - - stri, mi -  
 stri, mi - se - re - re no - - - - - stri, no - - - - - stri, mi -

51

61

mi - se - re - re no - - - - - stri.  
 re - re no - - - - - stri, mi - se - re - re no - - - - - stri.  
 8 - se - re - re no - - - - - stri, mi - se - re - re no - - - - - stri.  
 - se - re - re no - - - - - stri.

61