

# O salutaris hostia

William Byrd  
(c. 1535-1623)

The image shows a musical score for the piece "O salutaris hostia" by William Byrd. The score is written for six vocal parts: Soprano, Alto 1, Alto 2, Tenor I, Tenor II, and Bass. The music is in the key of B-flat major (two flats) and 4/4 time. The Soprano, Alto 1, and Tenor II parts are mostly silent, indicated by rests. The Alto 2 part begins with the lyrics "O sa - lu -" in the fourth measure. The Tenor I part begins with the lyrics "O sa - lu - ta - ris ho - sti - - - a, ho - sti -" in the first measure. The Bass part begins with the lyrics "O sa - lu - ta - - - ris ho - sti -" in the second measure. The score consists of six staves, each with a clef and a key signature of two flats. The Alto 2, Tenor I, and Bass staves have an "8" written below the first measure, likely indicating an octave sign.

5

S O sa - lu - ta - ris ho - sti - - - a,

A1 O sa - lu - ta - ris ho -

A2 ta - ris ho - sti - - - a,

TI a, ho - - - sti - - - a, Quae cae - li pan -

TII O sa - lu - ta - - ris ho - sti -

B a, ho - sti - - a, Quae cae - li

9

S Quae cae - li pan - - - dis ho -

A1 sti - - - a, Quae cae - li pan - -

A2 Quae cae - li pan - - dis ho - sti - - - -

TI dis ho - - - sti - - - - - - -

TII a, Quae

B pan - - - dis ho - - - sti - - - - - um;

12

S sti - - - - - um;

A1 dis ho - - - sti - um;

A2 um; Bel - - - la

TI 8 um; Quae cae - li pan - dis ho -

TII 8 cae - li pan - - - dis ho - sti - - - - - - - - - um;

B Quae cae - li pan - - - dis

Musical score for measures 12-14. The score is written in a key signature of three flats and a common time signature. It consists of six staves: Soprano (S), Alto 1 (A1), Alto 2 (A2), Tenor 1 (TI), Tenor 2 (TII), and Bass (B). The lyrics are distributed among the vocal parts.

15

S Bel - la pre - munt ho - sti - li - a,

A1 ho - sti - um; Bel - la pre - munt ho - sti - li - a, ho - sti - li -

A2 pre - munt ho - sti - li - a, ho - sti - li - - - -

TI 8 sti-um; Bel - - - la pre - munt ho - sti - li - - -

TII 8 Bel - la pre - munt ho - sti - li -

B ho - sti - um; Bel - - - la pre - munt ho - sti - li - - -

Musical score for measures 15-18. The score is written in a key signature of three flats and a common time signature. It consists of six staves: Soprano (S), Alto 1 (A1), Alto 2 (A2), Tenor 1 (TI), Tenor 2 (TII), and Bass (B). The lyrics are distributed among the vocal parts.

19

S Bel - - - la pre -

A1 a, Bel - la pre - - munt ho - sti - li - a, Bel - la

A2 a, Bel - - - la pre - munt ho - sti -

TI 8 a, ho - sti - li - - - - - - - - - - - a,

TII 8 a, ho - sti - li - - - - - a,

B a, Bel - la pre - munt ho - sti - li - a,

23

S munt ho - sti - - - li - a, da

A1 pre - munt ho - sti - li - a, ho - sti - - - li - a,

A2 li - a, da ro - bur fer

TI 8 Bel - la pre - munt ho - sti - li - - - - - a, da ro - bur

TII 8 Bel - la pre - munt ho - sti - li - a,

B Bel - la pre - munt ho - sti - li - a, Bel - la

27

S ro - bur fer au - xi - li - um, au - xi - li - um.

A1 da ro - bur fer au - xi - li - um, au - xi - li -

A2 au - xi - li - um, au - xi - li - um. da

TI 8 fer au - xi - li - - - - um, au - xi - li - - - - um. au -

TII 8 da ro - - bur fer au - xi - li - um, au -

B pre - munt ho - sti - li - a, ho - sti - li - a, da ro - bur fer au -

31

S da ro - bur fer au - xi - li - - - - um,

A1 um. da ro - bur fer au - xi - li -

A2 ro - bur fer au - xi - li - - - - um,

TI 8 xi - li - - - - - - - - - - - - um. A -

TII 8 xi - li - um. da ro - bur fer au -

B xi - li - um, au - xi - li - - - - - - - - - - um.

35

S A - - - - -

A1 um, au - xi - li - - - - um. A - - - - -

A2 A - - - - -

TI 8 xi - li - - - - um, A -

B A - - - - - men.

38

S men. A - - - - -

A1 men.

A2 men. A - - - - -

TI 8 men. A - - - - -

TII 8 men.

B A - - - - -

41

Musical score for measures 41-43. The score is in a key signature of three flats (B-flat, E-flat, A-flat) and a common time signature. It features six staves: Soprano (S), Alto 1 (A1), Alto 2 (A2), Tenor 1 (TI), Tenor 2 (TII), and Bass (B). The lyrics are: S: men. A1: A - - - - - A2: men. A - - - - - TI: men. A - TII: A - - - - - B: men. A - - - - -

44

Musical score for measures 44-46. The score is in a key signature of three flats (B-flat, E-flat, A-flat) and a common time signature. It features six staves: Soprano (S), Alto 1 (A1), Alto 2 (A2), Tenor 1 (TI), Tenor 2 (TII), and Bass (B). The lyrics are: S: A - - - - - A1: men. A - - - - - A2: men. A - TI: men. A - - - - - TII: men. A - - - - - B: men. A - - - - -

47

S men. A - - - - - men.

A1 men.

A2 men.

T1 men.

T2 men.

B men.

O saving sacrifice,  
 That openest the gate of heaven;  
 Hostile wars oppress,  
 Give strength, bear aid. Amen.

*The seemingly excessive occurrence of cross-relations in this piece is a result of Byrd's strict adherence to a canon between soprano, alto and tenor. The work was not published during Byrd's lifetime; it may, however, give insight to his fondness for the resulting dissonances.*