

O quam suavis est

William Byrd (c.1540-1623)

Cantus primus [Alto]

Contratenor [Tenor]

Tenor [Tenor]

Bassus [Bass]

O quam su - a - vis est Do - - - mi -

O quam su - a - vis est Do - mi - ne,

O quam su - a - vis est Do - mi -

O quam

Detailed description: This block contains the first system of the musical score. It features four staves: Cantus primus (Alto), Contratenor (Tenor), Tenor (Tenor), and Bassus (Bass). The music is in 4/2 time with a key signature of one sharp (F#). The lyrics are 'O quam suavis est Domine'. The Cantus primus staff begins with a treble clef and a sharp sign. The Contratenor and Tenor staves begin with a treble clef and an 8va marking. The Bassus staff begins with a bass clef and a sharp sign. The lyrics are written below the staves, with hyphens indicating syllables across measures.

10

- ne, su - a - vis est, su - a - vis est

su - a - vis est Do - mi - ne, su - a - vis est, Do - - - mi -

- ne, su - a - vis est Do - mi - ne, su -

su - a - vis est Do - mi - ne, su - a - vis est

Detailed description: This block contains the second system of the musical score, starting at measure 10. It continues the four-part setting. The lyrics are '- ne, suavis est, suavis est' and 'suavis est Domine, suavis est, Domine'. The Cantus primus staff has a sharp sign. The Contratenor and Tenor staves have an 8va marking. The Bassus staff has a sharp sign. The lyrics are written below the staves.

Do - - - mi - ne, spi - ri - tus tu - - - us, spi -

- ne, Do - - - mi - ne, spi - ri - tus tu - us,

- a - vis est Do - mi - ne, spi - ri - tus tu - - us, spi - ri -

Do - mi - ne, spi - ri - tus tu - - us,

Detailed description: This block contains the third system of the musical score. The lyrics are 'Domine, spiritus tuus, spiritus' and '- ne, Domine, spiritus tuus, spiritus'. The Cantus primus staff has a sharp sign. The Contratenor and Tenor staves have an 8va marking. The Bassus staff has a sharp sign. The lyrics are written below the staves.

20

- ri - tus tu

Detailed description: This block contains the fourth system of the musical score, starting at measure 20. It shows the continuation of the four-part setting. The lyrics are '- ri - tus tu'. The Cantus primus staff has a sharp sign. The Contratenor and Tenor staves have an 8va marking. The Bassus staff has a sharp sign. The lyrics are written below the staves.

- di-nem tu - - - am, in fi - li - os de -

- am, ut dul - ce - di-nem tu - am, in fi - li - os de - mon-stra -

- am, ut dul - ce - di-nem tu - am, in fi - li - os, in fi -

ut dul - ce - di-nem tu - am, in fi - li - os

- mon-stra - - - res, pa -

- - - res, pa - ne su - a-vis - - si - mo,

- li - os de - mon - stra - res, pa

30

40

- lo, de cœ - - lo, præ - - sti -
 de cœ - - lo, præ - sti - to, præ - sti -
 - lo, de cœ - - lo, præ - sti - to, præ - sti -
 cœ - - lo, præ - - sti - to,

-to, præ - - sti - to, e - su - ri - en - tes, e - su - ri -
 -to, præ - - sti - to, e - su - ri - en - - tes,
 -to, præ - sti - to, e - su - ri - en - tes, e -
 præ - - sti - to, e - su - ri -

50

- en - tes, e - su - ri - en - tes, e - su - ri - en - tes
 e - su - ri - en - - tes re - ples bo -
 -su - ri - en - tes, e - su - ri - en - tes re - ples bo -
 - en - tes, e - su - ri - en - tes re -

- re - ples bo - nis, re - ples bo - nis, fa -
 - nis, bo - - nis, re - ples bo - nis, fa - sti - di - o - sos
 - nis, bo - nis, re - ples bo - - nis,
 - ples bo - nis, re - ples bo - nis, fa - sti - di -

60

-sti - di - o - sos di - vi - tes, di - vi - tes, fa - sti - di - o - sos

di - vi - tes, fa - sti - di - o - sos di - vi - tes,

fa - sti - di - o - sos, fa - sti - di - o - sos di - vi - tes,

- o - sos, fa - sti - di - o - sos, di - vi - tes, fa - sti - di -

di - vi - tes, di - vi - tes, di - mit - tens in - a - nes,

di - vi - tes, di - vi - tes, di - mit - tens in - a -

- o - sos di - vi - tes, di - mit - tens in - a - nes, in - a -

-mit - tens in - a - nes, di - mit - tens in - a - nes, di - mit - tens in -

di - mit - tens in - a - nes, in - a - nes, di - mit - tens in - a -

- nes, in - a - nes, di - mit - tens in - a - nes, in -

- nes, di - mit - tens in - a - nes,

70

- a - nes, di - mit - tens in - a - nes, in - a - nes,

- nes, di - mit - tens in - a - nes, in - a - nes, in -

- a - nes, di - mit - tens in - a - nes, in -

di - mit - tens in - a - nes, di - mit - tens in -

di - mit - tens in - a - nes.

- a - nes, in - a - nes.

- a - nes, di - mit - tens in - a - nes.

- a - nes, in - a - nes, in - a - nes.

O how sweet is thy spirit, O Lord, who, to show thy loving-kindness to thy children, dost feed them with that sweetest bread which came down from heaven; filling the hungry with good things, and sending the rich and disdainful empty away.

Source: William Byrd: *Gradualia, seu cantionum sacrarum... Liber secundus* (1st edition, 1607, 2nd edition, 1610), no.18.
Liturgical function: Magnificat antiphon, 1st Vespers, Corpus Christi.

II.29-30: *vis si mo*

II.60-61: *di vi tes*

II.66-67, 69: *mit tens in*

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