

Stella celi

Motet from the Old Hall Manuscript (late 14th c.)

Composed by John Cooke

Arranged for voice and piano by Alex Ness

Introduction

Over the last year or so, I've been arranging early music repertoire for myself to sing while playing the piano. I'd like to share this wonderful music with you, and to encourage you to rearrange it to your own tastes and abilities: for example, by transposing it to a different register, changing the instrumentation, or making the counterpoint simpler or more complex. MuseScore and MusicXML source files are available to make such alterations as painless as possible.

Source

I transcribed the composition from digital images of the Old Hall Manuscript, available on the DIAMM website here:

<https://www.diamm.ac.uk/sources/210/#/>

Text

Latin text

Stella celi extirpavit
Que lactavit Dominum
Mortis pestem, quam plantavit
Primus parens hominum.
Ipsa stella nunc dignetur
Sidera compescere;
Quorum bella plebem cedunt
Dire mortis ulcere.

Pronunciation (IPA)

stelːa tʃeli ɛkstirpavit
kwe laktavit dominum
mɔrtis pestem kwam plantavit
primus parens ominum
ipsa stelːa nuŋk diɲetur
sidera kompeʃere
kwɔrum belːa plebem tʃedunt
dire mɔrtis ultʃere

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Stella celi

♩ = 48

Motet from the Old Hall Manuscript (late 14th c.)

John Cooke,
arr. Alex Ness

A (sing triplex)

Stel - la — ce - li ex - tir - pa - vit

The first system of the musical score, measures 1-4. The vocal line is in bass clef with a key signature of two flats (Bb, Eb). The time signature is 2/2, which changes to 3/2 in the second measure and back to 2/2 in the fourth. The piano accompaniment is in bass clef with a key signature of two flats. The lyrics are 'Stel - la — ce - li ex - tir - pa - vit'.

que la - cta - vit — Do - mi - num, mor - tis — pe - stem

The second system of the musical score, measures 5-8. The vocal line continues in bass clef with a key signature of two flats. The time signature is 2/2, which changes to 3/2 in the sixth measure and back to 2/2 in the eighth. There are triplet markings over the notes in measures 6 and 7. The piano accompaniment is in bass clef with a key signature of two flats. The lyrics are 'que la - cta - vit — Do - mi - num, mor - tis — pe - stem'.

quam plan - ta - vit pri - mus pa - rens

The third system of the musical score, measures 9-12. The vocal line continues in bass clef with a key signature of two flats. The time signature is 2/2, which changes to 3/2 in the tenth measure and back to 2/2 in the twelfth. The piano accompaniment is in bass clef with a key signature of two flats. The lyrics are 'quam plan - ta - vit pri - mus pa - rens'.

$\text{♩} = 48$

14

ho - mi - num I - psa stel - la nunc di - gne - tur si - de -

This system contains measures 14 through 18. The vocal line begins with a triplet of eighth notes (G4, A4, B4) in measure 14, followed by a half note (C5) in measure 15. The piano accompaniment features a steady eighth-note bass line in the left hand and a melody in the right hand that includes a sharp sign (F#4) in measure 15. The time signature changes from 3/4 to 6/4 at measure 15 and back to 3/4 at measure 18.

19

ra com - pe - sce - re quo - rum bel - la ple - bem

This system contains measures 19 through 21. The vocal line continues with a half note (C5) in measure 19, followed by a half note (B4) in measure 20, and a half note (A4) in measure 21. The piano accompaniment maintains the eighth-note bass line and provides harmonic support with chords and single notes. The time signature remains 3/4.

22

ce - dunt di - re mor - tis ul - ce - re.

This system contains measures 22 through 24. The vocal line starts with a half note (G4) in measure 22, followed by a half note (F4) in measure 23, and a half note (E4) in measure 24. The piano accompaniment continues with the eighth-note bass line and harmonic accompaniment. The time signature remains 3/4.

25 **B** ♩ = 48 (sing tenor)

Stel - la — ce - li ex - tir - pa - vit

This musical system covers measures 25 to 28. The vocal line is in bass clef with a key signature of two flats (Bb, Eb) and a 2/2 time signature. The lyrics are 'Stel - la — ce - li ex - tir - pa - vit'. The piano accompaniment consists of two staves, with the right hand in bass clef and the left hand in bass clef. The time signature changes from 2/2 to 3/2 in measure 26 and back to 2/2 in measure 27.

29

que la - cta - vit — Do - mi - num, mor - tis — pe - stem

This musical system covers measures 29 to 33. The vocal line continues with the lyrics 'que la - cta - vit — Do - mi - num, mor - tis — pe - stem'. The piano accompaniment features triplets in measures 30 and 31. The time signature changes from 2/2 to 3/2 in measure 30 and back to 2/2 in measure 32.

34

quam plan - ta - vit pri - mus pa - rens

This musical system covers measures 34 to 37. The vocal line continues with the lyrics 'quam plan - ta - vit pri - mus pa - rens'. The piano accompaniment continues with the same instrumental texture. The time signature changes from 2/2 to 3/2 in measure 35 and back to 2/2 in measure 36.

ho - mi - num I - psa stel - la nunc di - gne - tur si - de -

ra com - pe - sce - re quo - rum bel - la ple - bem

ce - dunt di - re mor - tis ul - ce - re.

49 **C** ♩ = 48 (sing countertenor)

Stel - la — ce - li ex - tir - pa - vit

This system contains measures 49 through 52. The vocal line is in bass clef with a key signature of two flats (B-flat and E-flat). The time signature changes from 2/2 to 3/2, then back to 2/2, and finally to 3/2. The piano accompaniment is in treble and bass staves, also with a key signature of two flats. The lyrics are: 'Stel - la — ce - li ex - tir - pa - vit'.

53

que la - cta - vit — Do - mi - num, mor - tis — pe - stem

This system contains measures 53 through 56. The vocal line continues in bass clef. The time signature changes from 2/2 to 3/2, then back to 2/2, and finally to 3/2. The piano accompaniment continues in treble and bass staves. The lyrics are: 'que la - cta - vit — Do - mi - num, mor - tis — pe - stem'. There are triplet markings over the notes for 'mi' and 'num'.

58

quam plan - ta - vit pri - mus pa - rens

This system contains measures 57 through 60. The vocal line continues in bass clef. The time signature changes from 2/2 to 3/2, then back to 2/2, and finally to 3/2. The piano accompaniment continues in treble and bass staves. The lyrics are: 'quam plan - ta - vit pri - mus pa - rens'.

ho - mi - num I - psa stel - la nunc di - gne - tur si - de -

ra com - pe - sce - re quo - rum bel - la ple - bem

ce - dunt di - re mor - tis ul - ce - re.