

William Byrd
c.1539/40 - 1623

**Ave Verum
Corpus**

ed. Michael Winter

for 4 voices, SATB

Edited from *Gradualia ac cantiones sacrae, Liber
Primus*

Ave Verum Corpus is one of William Byrd's most famous and most popular compositions. Variations on the fourteenth century text have been set by numerous composers such as Mozart and Elgar. Orlando di Lasso's setting may have somewhat inspired Byrd as this setting also makes use of false relations (see b. 2, and b. 37 for examples).

During the Middle these words were sung at the elevation of the Host during the consecration. It was also used frequently during Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament. The issue of transubstantiation was one of the central controversies of the protestant reformation and therefore William Byrd (a famous recusant) may well have written this piece for use by the clandestine Roman Catholic community in Essex, harboured by another famous recusant and patron to Byrd, John Petre, 1st Baron Petre. The potential Catholic influences of this piece may have impacted this piece of music, such as the interesting emphasis in the first phrase: '*Ave verum corpus*' ('Hail the *true* body) which stresses the belief in transubstantiation.

For further reading see J. Kerman, *Masses and Motets of William Byrd*, p. 288.

Editorial Notes:

Source: *Gradualis ac caniones, Liber 1*

Text: Appears as written in the source. Editorial text appears in italics.

Note Values: Original notes values have been retained.

Accidentals: Source accidentals appear in large print preceding to note to which they apply. Editorial accidentals appear in small print above the note to which they apply. Superfluous accidentals which appear in the source have been retained.

Recommended Performance Pitch: As written, transpose as required

Other notes: In the original source, there is no repeat; it is written out in full. This edition includes a repeat to save space.

Should you spot any errors, or would like a transposed version, please feel free to get in contact at michael_winter1@outlook.com

Michael Winter

St Albans

Oct 2020

Ave Verum Corpus

William Byrd (c.1539/40 - 1623)
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Superius
A - ve ve - rum cor - - pus, na - tum

Medius
A - ve ve - rum cor - - pus, na - tum

Tenor
A - ve ve - rum cor - pus, na - tum

Bassus
A - ve ve - rum cor - - pus, na - tum de__

6
S.
de Ma - ri - a Vir - gi - ne, ve - re pas - sum, im - mo - la -

S.
de Ma - ri - a Vir - gi - ne, ve - re pas - sum, im - mo - la -

T.
de Ma - ri - a Vir - gi - ne, ve - re pas - sum im - mo - la - tum

B.
_ Ma - ri - a Vir - gi - be, ve - re pas - sum im - mo - la -

12
S.
tum in cru - ce _____ pro ho - mi - ne: Cu - jus la - tus per - fo - ra -

S.
- tum in cru - ce pro ho - mi - ne: Cu - jus la - tus per - fo -

T.
in cru - ce pro ho - mi - ne: Cu - jus la - tus per - fo -

B.
tum in cru - ce _____ pro ho - mi - ne Cu - jus la - tus per - fo -

18

S. - tum, un - da flu - xit san - gui - ne. san - gui - ne. E -

S. ra - tum, un - da flu - xit san - gui - ne, san - gui - ne. E -

T. ra - tum, un - da flux - it san - gui - ne. E -

B. ra - tum, un - da flu - - xit san - gui - ne. E -

23

S. - sto no - bis præ - gu - sta - tum in mor - tis ex - a -

S. - sto no - bis præ - gu - sta - tum in mor - tis, in mor - tis ex -

T. sto no - bis præ - gu - sta - tum in mor - tis ex - a -

B. - sto no - bis præ - gu - sta - tum in mor - tis ex - a -

28

S. - mi - ne: O Dul - cis! O pi - e! O Je - su

S. a - mi - ne: O Dul - cis, O pi - e, O Je -

T. - mi - ne: O Dul - cis, O pi - e,

B. - mi - ne: O Dul - cis, O pi - e, O Je - su

