

Ave maris stella

Edited by Jason Smart

John Sheppard (d.1558)

v.1 *All 4 rulers of the choir* *Chorus*

A - ve ma - ris stel - la, De - i ma - ter al - ma,
At - que sem - per vir - go, Fe - lix cae - li por - ta.

v.2

Treble

Mean

Countertenor 1

Countertenor 2

Tenor [Missing]

Bass

Su - mens il - lud
Su - mens il -
Su - mens il - - - -
Su - mens il - - - -
Su - mens il - - - - lud
Su - mens il - lud

4

A - ve Ga - bri - e - lis o - - - re, A - ve Ga - bri -
- - - lud A - ve Ga - bri - e - lis o - re,
- - - - - lud
- lud A - ve Ga - bri - e - lis o - - -
A - ve Ga - bri - e - lis o - - - re, A - ve Ga - bri - e - lis o -
A - - - - - ve Ga - bri -

9

- e - lis o - re, Fun - da nos in
 Fun - da nos in pa - ce,
 A - ve Ga - bri - e - lis o - re, Fun - da nos in pa - ce,
 - re, Fun - da nos in pa - ce,
 - re, Fun - da nos in pa - ce, Mu -
 e - lis o - re, Fun - da nos in pa - ce,

14

pa - ce, Mu - tans no - men E - vae.
 Mu - tans no - men E - vae, mu - tans no - men E - vae.
 Mu - tans no - men E - vae.
 - ce, Mu - tans no - men E - vae.
 - tans no - men E - vae.
 Mu - tans no - men E - vae.

v.3 *Chorus*

Sol - ve vin - cla re - is, Pro - fer lu - men cae - cis,
 Ma - la no - stra pel - le, Bo - na cun - cta po - sce.

19 v.4

Mon - stra te es - se ma -
 Mon - stra te es - se ma - trem, Su - mat per te
 Mon - stra te es - se ma -
 Mon - stra te es - se ma -
 Mon - stra te es - se ma - trem, Su - mat per te
 Mon - stra te es - se ma -

24

- trem, Su - mat per te pre - cem: Qui
 pre - cem: Qui pro
 - trem, Su - mat per te pre -
 - trem, Su - mat per te pre - cem:
 pre - trem, Su - mat per te

— pro no - bis na - tus Tu - lit es - se tu -

no - bis na - tus Tu - lit

- cem: Qui pro no - bis na -

Qui pro no - bis na - tus Tu - lit es - se tu -

- cem: Qui pro no - bis na - tus

pre - cem: Qui pro no - bis na - tus Tu - lit

- us, tu - lit es - se tu - us.

es - se tu - us.

- tus Tu - lit es - se tu - us.

us.

Tu - lit es - se tu - us.

es - se tu - us.

v.5

Vir - go sin - gu - la - ris, In - ter o - mnes mi - tis:
 Nos cul - pis so - lu - tos Mi - tes fac et ca - stos.

38 v.6

Vi - tam prae - sta pu -
 Vi - tam prae - sta pu - ram,
 Vi - tam prae - sta pu -
 Vi - tam prae - sta pu - ram, I - ter pa - ra
 Vi - tam prae - sta pu -
 Vi - tam prae - sta pu -

42

- ram, I - ter pa - ra tu -
 I - ter pa - ra tu -
 - ram, I - ter pa - ra tu - tum:
 tu - tum: Ut vi - den -
 - ram, I - ter pa - ra tu - tum: Ut
 - ram, I - ter

46

- tum: Ut vi - den - tes Je - - -
 - - tum: Ut vi - den - tes Je - - -
 Ut vi - den - tes Je - - - sum Sem - per col -
 - tes Je - - - - - - - - - sum Sem -
 vi - den - tes Je - - - sum Sem - per col - lae - te -
 pa - ra tu - tum: Ut vi - den - tes Je - sum

51

- sum _____ Sem - per col - lae - te - - - - mur.
 - - - - sum Sem - per col - lae - te - mur.
 - lae - te - mur, sem - per col - lae - te - - - - mur.
 - per col - lae - te - - - - - mur.
 - - - - - - - - - - - mur.
 Sem - per col - lae - - - - te - - - - mur.

v.7

Sit laus De - o Pa - tri, Sum - mo Chri - sto de - cus:
 Spi - ri - tu - i San - cto, Tri - bus ho - nor u - nus. A - men.

Translation

1. Hail, star of the sea, gentle mother of God and ever-virgin, blessed gateway to heaven.
2. Receiving that salutation [*Ave*] from Gabriel's mouth, establish us in peace, changing the name of Eve [*Eva*].
3. Loosen the chains of the guilty, give light to the blind, drive away our evil, request for us all good things.
4. Show yourself to be a mother: may He receive your prayers, who was born for us and allowed himself to be yours.
5. O unique Virgin, meek above all others, free us from our guilt and make us gentle and chaste.
6. Grant us a pure life and prepare a safe journey, so that we may see Jesus and rejoice with you forever.
7. Praise be to God the Father, glory be to the supreme Christ, and to the Holy Spirit; honour be to the Three in One. Amen.

Liturgical Function

In the pre-reformation Use of Sarum, the hymn *Ave maris stella* was sung at First and Second Vespers on the feasts of the Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary (25 March), at First Vespers of the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary (8 September) and at First and Second Vespers on the Feast of the Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary (8 December). It was also sung, to a different tune, during the Octave of her Nativity and during the hours of the Virgin at Vespers.

Editorial Conventions

The nomenclature of the voice-parts follows the Tudor convention.

The original clef, staff signature, mensuration symbol and first note of each part are shown on the prefatory staves.

Editorial accidentals are placed above the notes concerned.

Ligatures are denoted by the sign $\overline{\quad}$.

Repeat signs in the underlay have been expanded using italicised text.

The lost Tenor part has been reconstructed by the editor in small notation.

Sources

Polyphony: Oxford, Christ Church Mus. 979–83 (c.1575-1581 with later additions).

| | | | | |
|-----|-------|--------|----------------|---------------------------------------------|
| 979 | (M) | no.113 | at end: | m ^f shepperde· |
| 980 | (Ct1) | no.113 | at end: | m ^f : S· |
| 981 | (Ct2) | no.113 | at end: | m ^f : shepperde:-· |
| 982 | (Tr) | no.113 | at end: | m ^f : S· |
| 983 | (B) | no.113 | index heading: | M ^f John Shepperde. [later hand] |
| | | | at end: | m ^f : shepperde· |

Plainsong: *Hymnorum cum notis opusculum usui insignis ecclesie Sarum* (Antwerp, 1541), f.148^v.

Notes on the Readings of the Sources

In the references below the order within each entry is: 1) bar number(s); 2) voice; 3) reading of the source (with any subsequent bar numbers in brackets). Pitches are in capital letters, preceded by a number where necessary, e.g. ²D = second note D in the bar.

Accidentals

36 Tr ♯ for E

50 Ct1 ♯ for E

Underlay

7–11 all parts *ora* for *ore*

13 Ct2 *-ce* below A

17 M slur for GFE²D (only)

26–29 all parts *-ces* for *-cem*

27 Ct1 *-ces* (for *-cem*) below D; Ct2 *-ces* (for *-cem*) below G

40 B *prae-* below D, (41)

-sta below G, (42) *pu-* below E

48 M *-tes Je-* below ²A³A

50 M *-sum ut* below GB, (51) *videntes* ambiguously aligned below AGFE, *Je-* below C