

Descendit de cœlis

Cantiones Sacrae II (1591), 21-22.
Matins Respond for Christmas Day
(Sarum rite). Transposed up a 4th.

William Byrd
(c.1540-1623)

Musical score for "Descendit de cœlis" by William Byrd. The score consists of six staves, each representing a vocal part:

- Superius S**: Treble clef, 2/4 time, key signature of one flat. Notes: - - - - -
- Medius A₁**: Treble clef, 2/4 time, key signature of one flat. Notes: - - - - - - - - - -
- Sextus A₂**: Treble clef, 2/4 time, key signature of one flat. Notes: - - - - - - - - - -
- Tenor T₁**: Treble clef, 2/4 time, key signature of one flat. Notes: - - - - - - - - - -
- Contratenor T₂**: Treble clef, 2/4 time, key signature of one flat. Notes: - - - - - - - - - -
- Bassus B**: Bass clef, 2/4 time, key signature of one flat. Notes: - - - - -

The lyrics are provided below the notes:

De - scen - dit de cœ - - - - -
De - scen - dit de cœ - - - - lis, de cœ - - - lis,
De - scen - - - dit

Continuation of the musical score for "Descendit de cœlis" starting at measure 6:

6

De - scen - dit de cœ - - - - lis, de cœ - - lis,
- - - lis, de cœ - lis, de - scen - dit de cœ -
de - scen - dit de cœ - - lis, mis -
de _____ cœ - - - - - - - - - -
de cœ - - - - lis, de cœ - - lis, de -
De - scen - - dit de cœ - - lis, de - scen - dit de

11

mis-sus ab ar-ce Pa - tris, Pa - - - - tris,
lis, mis-sus ab ar-ce Pa - tris, mis -
sus ab ar-ce Pa - tris, mis -
lis, mis - sus ab _____ ar - - - ce _____
seen - dit de cœ - - - lis, mis-sus ab
cœ - - - lis, de cœ - - - lis, mis - sus ab ar - ce

16

mis-sus ab ar-ce Pa - tris, ab ar-ce Pa -
sus ab ar-ce Pa - - - tris, mis - sus ab ar - ce Pa - - -
sus ab ar-ce Pa - tris, ab ar - ce Pa - tris;
Pa - - - - - - - - - tris; _____
ar - ce Pa - tris, mis - sus ab ar - ce Pa - tris, ab ar - ce Pa -
Pa - tris, mis - sus ab ar - ce Pa - - - tris, ab ar - ce Pa -

21

Musical score for voice and piano, page 3, measure 21. The score consists of two staves. The top staff is for the voice (soprano) and the bottom staff is for the piano. The vocal line begins with a rest followed by a dotted half note, then continues with eighth notes. The lyrics are: "tris; in - tro - i - vit," followed by a repeat sign and "tris; in - tro - i - vit per au - rem vir - gi - nis," then "in - tro - i - vit, in - tro - i - vit _____ per au - rem" followed by a fermata over the last note. The piano accompaniment consists of eighth-note chords. The vocal line continues with "per au - rem vir - gi - nis, per au - rem vir -" followed by a fermata over the last note. The piano accompaniment ends with a final chord.

26

Musical score for voice and piano, page 3, measure 26. The score consists of two staves. The top staff is for the voice (soprano) and the bottom staff is for the piano. The vocal line begins with a rest followed by a dotted half note, then continues with eighth notes. The lyrics are: "in - tro - i - vit per au - rem vir - gi - nis, per au - rem vir - gi -" followed by a fermata over the last note. The piano accompaniment consists of eighth-note chords. The vocal line continues with "in - tro - i - vit per au - rem vir -" followed by a fermata over the last note. The piano accompaniment ends with a final chord. The vocal line continues with "vir - gi - nis, per au - rem vir - gi -" followed by a fermata over the last note. The piano accompaniment ends with a final chord. The vocal line continues with "au - rem _____ vir - gi -" followed by a fermata over the last note. The piano accompaniment ends with a final chord. The vocal line continues with "nис in" followed by a fermata over the last note. The piano accompaniment ends with a final chord. The vocal line continues with "gi - nis, per au - rem vir -" followed by a fermata over the last note. The piano accompaniment ends with a final chord. The vocal line continues with "nис, per au - rem vir - gi -" followed by a fermata over the last note. The piano accompaniment ends with a final chord.

35

no - stram, _____ in re - gi - o-nem no - - -
re - gi - o-nem no - stram, no - - - stram,
in re - gi - o-nem no - - - stram, in re - gi - o-nem no - - -
nem - nem -
stram, in re - gi - o-nem no - - -
stram, in re - gi - o-nem no - - - stram, in re - gi -

39

A musical score for voice and piano. The vocal line begins with a dotted half note followed by eighth notes. The lyrics are: "stram, in re - gi - o - nem no - stram ____". The piano accompaniment consists of eighth-note chords. The vocal line continues with: "in re - gi - o-nem no - stram, no - stram ____". The piano accompaniment changes to a sustained note. The vocal line continues with: "stram, in re - gi - o-nem no - stram ____". The piano accompaniment returns to eighth-note chords. The vocal line concludes with: "stram, no - stram in -". The piano accompaniment ends with a sustained note. The vocal line concludes with: "o - nem no - stram, no - stram ____". The piano accompaniment ends with a sustained note.

43

A musical score for voice and piano. The vocal line begins with a sustained note followed by a rest. The piano accompaniment consists of eighth-note chords. The vocal line continues with: "in -". The piano accompaniment changes to a sustained note. The vocal line continues with: "in - du - tus sto - la pur - pu - re - a,". The piano accompaniment returns to eighth-note chords. The vocal line continues with: "in - du - tus sto -". The piano accompaniment ends with a sustained note. The vocal line continues with: "in - du - - - tus sto - la ____ pur - - - -". The piano accompaniment ends with a sustained note. The vocal line continues with: "du - tus sto - la pur - pu - re - a, pur - pu - re - a, in - du - tus". The piano accompaniment ends with a sustained note. The vocal line concludes with: "in - du - tus sto - la pur - pu - re - a,". The piano accompaniment ends with a sustained note.

48

A musical score for voice and piano. The vocal part is in soprano clef, B-flat key signature, and common time. The piano part is in bass clef, B-flat key signature, and common time. The lyrics are: du-tus sto-la, in-du-tus sto-la, la-pur-pu-re-a, pu-re-a, sto-la-pur-pu-re-a, in-du-tus, in-du-tus sto-la, la-pur-pu-re-a, in-a.

du - tus sto - la, in - du - tus sto - la____ pur - pu - re - a,
la pur - pu - re - a, pur - pu - re - a,
pu - re - a.
sto - la pur - pu - re - a, in - du - tus
in - du - tus sto - la pur - pu - re - a, in -

52

A musical score for voice and piano, continuing from measure 48. The vocal part is in soprano clef, B-flat key signature, and common time. The piano part is in bass clef, B-flat key signature, and common time. The lyrics are: sto-la, pur-pu-re-a, in-du-tus sto-la, la-pur-pu-re-a, in-du-tus sto-la, pur-pu-re-a, in-a.

sto - la pur - pu - re - a.
in - du - tus sto - la pur - pu - re - a.
in - du - tus sto - la pur - pu - re - a.
sto - la, in - du - tus sto - la pur - pu - re - a.
du - tus sto - la pur - pu - re - a.

56 2. pars

A musical score for five voices (SATB plus basso continuo) in common time and G major. The music consists of five staves, each with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp. The lyrics are in Latin, repeated multiple times. The vocal parts are: Soprano (S), Alto (A), Tenor (T), Bass (B), and Continuo (C). The continuo part is typically played by a harpsichord or organ.

Et ex - i - vit per au-re-am por - tam, et ex - i - vit per
Et ex - i - vit per au-re-am por - tam,
Et ex - i - vit per au-re-am por -
8 Et ex - - - i - - vit _____ per au - re - - -
Et ex - i - vit per au-re-am por - tam,
Et ex - i - vit per au - re - am, et ex - i - vit per au - re - am por -

61

A musical score for five voices, likely a setting of the hymn "Auream portat". The score consists of five staves, each with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat. The lyrics are written below each staff.

The lyrics are:

- au - re - am por - tam,
- et ex - i - vit per au - re - am por - tam,
- et _____ ex - i - vit per au - re - am, per au - re - am por - tam,
- tam, et ex - i - vit per au - re - am por - tam, por - tam,
- am por - - - - - tam, _____
- et ex - i - vit per au - re - am, et per au - re - am por - tam,
- - - tam, per au - re - am por - tam, por - - - tam,

66

A musical score for five voices (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass, and Basso Continuo) and organ. The vocal parts are in soprano, alto, tenor, and bass clefs. The basso continuo part includes a bass clef and a bass staff. The music consists of six staves. The lyrics are: lux et de - lux et de - cus, et de - lux lux et de - - - lux. Measure 66 starts with a rest followed by a melodic line in the soprano and alto parts.

70

A continuation of the musical score from measure 66. The lyrics continue: - - - cus, lux et de - lux et de - - - cus u - - - ni - ver - sæ et de - - - - cus, et de - - - cus u - - - - - - - et de - - - cus, lux et de - - - cus lux et de - - - - - - -

74

cus u - ni - ver - sæ fa - bri - cæ mun -

fa - bri - cæ mun - di, u - ni - ver - sæ

ni - ver - sæ fa - bri - cæ mun - - - - di, u -

u - ni - ver - sæ - sae

u - ni - ver - sæ fa - bri - cæ mun - - - - di, fa - bri -

cus u - ni - ver - sæ fa - bri - cæ mun - - di, fa - bri -

83



83

— u - ni - ver - sæ fa - bri-cæ, u - ni - ver - sæ fa - bri-cæ mun -
ver - sæ fa - bri - cæ mun - di, u - ni - ver - sæ fa - bri - cæ
- bri-cæ mun - di, u - ni - ver - sæ fa - bri - cæ, u -
cæ_____ mun - - - - - di.
u - ni - ver - sæ fa - bri - cæ mun - di, u - ni - ver - sæ
mun - di, u - ni - ver - sæ fa - bri-cæ, u - ni -
ni - ver - sæ fa - bri - cæ mun - di, u - ni - ver - sæ
cæ mun - - - - - di.
- ni - ver - sæ fa - bri - cæ mun - di, u - ni - ver - sæ
fa - bri-cæ, fa - bri - cæ mun - - - - - di.
ver - sæ fa - bri - cæ mun - - - - - di.

88



88

di, fa - bri - cæ mun - - - - - di.
cæ mun - - - - - di, fa - bri-cæ mun - di.
- ni - ver - sæ fa - bri - cæ mun - di, mun - - - - - di.
fa - bri-cæ, fa - bri - cæ mun - - - - - di.
ver - sæ fa - bri - cæ mun - - - - - di.