

# Stella caeli

Edited by Jason Smart

Robert Cooper (d.1539/40)

Mean 1

Mean 2

Countertenor

3

6

9

Stel - la cae - li ex -

Stel - la cae - li ex -

Stel - la cae - li

- tir - pa - vit quae la -

- tir - pa - vit quae la - ct a - vit Do -

ex - tir - pa - vit quae la - ct a - vit Do -

- ct a - vit Do - mi - num mor - tis pe - stem, quam

- mi - num mor - tis pe - stem,

- mi - num mor - tis pe - stem, quam

plan - ta - vit pri - mus pa -

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

plan - ta - vit pri - mus pa -

11

- rens ho - mi - - - - - num. I - psa stel -

ho - mi - - - - - num. I - psa stel -

rens ho - mi - - - - - num. I - psa stel -

14

- la nunc di - gne - - - - - tur si -

- la nunc di - gne - - - - - tur si - de-ra com-pe - sce -

- la nunc di - gne - tur si - de-ra com - pe - sce - re,

17

- de-ra com-pe - sce - re, quo - rum bel - la ple - bem cae - dunt di - rae

- re, quo - rum bel - - - - - la ple - bem cae - dunt di - - -

quo - rum bel - - - - - la ple - bem cae - dunt di - rae mor -

20

mor - tis ul - ce - re.

- rae mor - tis ul - ce - - - - - re. O glo - ri - o - sa stel -

- tis ul - ce - - - - - re. O \_\_\_\_\_

23

O glo - ri - o - sa stel - la ma - - - - ris, a pe - ste suc - cur - re

- la ma - - - - - ris, a pe - - - - -

glo - ri - o - sa stel - la ma - - - - - ris, a pe -

26

no - - - - bis. Au - di \_\_\_\_\_

- ste suc - cur - re no - - - - bis. Au - di \_\_\_\_\_

- ste suc - cur - re no - - bis. Au - - - - - di

29

nos: nam \_\_\_\_\_ te Fi - li - us,

nos: nam \_\_\_\_\_ te Fi - li - us, ni - hil

nos: nam \_\_\_\_\_ te Fi - li - us, \_\_\_\_\_ ni - hil ne -

32

ni - hil ne - gans, ho - no - - - - rat.

ne - gans, ho - no - - - - rat.

- gans, ni - hil ne - gans, ho - no - - - - rat. \_\_\_\_\_

35

Sal - va nos, Je - - - su, pro qui - bus

Sal - va nos, Je - - - su, pro qui - bus vir - go

Sal - va nos, Je - su,

39

vir - go ma - - - ter, ma - ter te

ma - ter, [ma - - - ter te]

pro qui - bus vir - go ma - ter te

43

o - - - - -

o - - - - -

o - - - - -

46

- - - - - rat.

- - - - - rat.

- - - - - rat.

## Translation

Star of Heaven, who suckled the Lord and rooted out the plague of death planted by the first parents of man; may this same star now deign to restrain the constellations whose battles slay the people with the ulcers of a terrible death. O glorious star of the sea, save us from the plague. Hear us: for your Son honours you, denying you nothing. Save us, Jesus, for whom the Virgin Mother prays to you.

## Liturgical Function

A votive antiphon to the Virgin, praying for protection against the plague.

## Editorial Conventions

The nomenclature of the voice-parts follows the Tudor convention. No scoring or performing pitch is specified in the source and more than one combination of voices would have been possible. In this edition the piece is scored at source pitch for two means and countertenor. In the sixteenth century this scoring would have been better served by performance a tone higher than notated, which suits the compass of means better.

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 and remain operative throughout the bar.

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

Spelling of the text has been modernised.

A text repetition sign in the underlay has been expanded editorially in italics.

Notes with fermatas, which are all breves in the source, have been transcribed as longs with fermatas.

## Source

London, British Library MS R.M. 24.d.2 (c.1588–1606).

f.162<sup>v</sup> header:        iij: voc:-- m<sup>f</sup>: doc: cooper:--  
at end of B: m<sup>f</sup> docter cooper:--

## Notes on the Readings of the Source

In the notes below, each reference to a bar or group of bars is separated by an oblique stroke. Within these references multiple readings in the same voice are separated by commas and readings in different voices by semicolons. The order within each entry is: 1) bar number; 2) voice; 3) reading of the source. For extended references subsequent bar numbers are in brackets. Pitches are in capital letters, preceded by a number where necessary, e.g. <sup>3</sup>F = third note F in the bar.

### Accidentals

3 M1 letter F below C cancelling the F# in 2 / 34 M2 # for <sup>3</sup>F / 45 Ct *b* for B /

### Underlay

2 Ct *caeli* undivided below FGD / 18 M2 *-la* perhaps intended below E / 39 M2 *pro* below <sup>5</sup>E, (40–41) *quibus* below F<sup>1</sup>C *virgo* undivided below DEBCB, (41) *ma-* below <sup>2</sup>B, (42) *-ter* below B (probably a scribal interpretation of a repeat sign at <sup>5</sup>E in 39) /

### Other Readings

16 M1 first semibreve rest omitted / 43 M1 proportion sign  $\frac{\circ}{3}$  at start of bar (evidently with the same meaning as  $\frac{\phi}{3}$ );  
M2 Ct proportion sign  $\frac{\phi}{3}$  at start of bar /