



Instantis Adventum Dei

A Hymn for Advent

For Soprano and Alto voices with Chamber Organ

Words by Charles Coffin (1676 - 1749)

Music by Nigel Morgan

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***For Soprano and Alto Voices
with Chamber Organ***

Words by Charles Coffin

Music by Nigel Morgan

About The Piece

This is a through-composed hymn for Advent written in celebration of the birth, on the first Sunday of Advent 2006, of my grand-daughter Amy Hope Russell.

The text in Latin is taken from the *Paris Breviary* of 1736 by Charles Coffin, Rector of the College of Beauvais at the University of Paris. Many of Coffin's Latin hymns (well over a 100) are found in *Hymns Ancient and Modern* in translations by Chandler, Isaac Williams and others. The translation offered here is by Amy's other grand-parent the poet Margaret Morgan.

Instantis Adventum Dei is imagined for a small choir of women's voices with chamber organ accompaniment. The setting is intimate and, for a hymn, intricate and gently reflective. This music was written immediately following a short visit to Stanbrook Abbey whose celebrated choir of Nuns of the Conventus of Our Lady of Consolation sing the Daily Office in the fine acoustic of a church by Edward Pugin. My visit to Stanbrook was partly to offer my thanks for the birth of my grand-daughter, following in the footsteps of the author Rumer Godden who once made a visit for similar reasons explained in the forward to her book *The House of Bede*.

So this short Advent work, whilst dedicated to a baby expected at Christmas but born at the beginning of Advent, is also offered to my Stanbrook friends whose contemplative life of prayer, scholarship and outreach remains a powerful and daily example.

1.

Instantis adventum Dei
Poscamus ardenti prece,
Festique munus inclytum
Praeoccupemus canticis.

2.

Aeterna proles feminae
Non horret includi sinu;
Fit ipse servus, ut iugo
Nos servitutis eximat.

3.

Mansuetus et clemens venit;
Occurre, festina, Sion:
Ultero tibi quam porrigit,
Ne dura pacem respuas.

4.

Mox nube clara fulgurans
Mundi redibit arbiter,
Suique membra corporis
Caelo triumphator vehet.

5.

Fetus tenebrarum, die
Cedant propinquo crimina;
Adam reformetur vetus,
Imago succedat novi.

6.

Qui liberator advenis,
Fili, tibi laus maxima
Cum Patre et almo Spiritu
In sempiterna saecula.

1.

Now is the time of the coming of God.
Let us be earnest and ardent in prayer
and wrapped about in songs of celebration.

2.

For the eternal Son is not ashamed
to be fleshed as we are,
so that he can set us free.

3.

Hurry to meet him, Sion,
this gentle and merciful one,
who stretches out to you, strong in peace.

4.

He is near. Soon on radiant clouds
the Judge will come and gather us,
his scattered ones, into his bliss.

5.

And the evil fruits of night will shrivel
in the light of day as Adam
puts on a new flesh and throws away the old.

6.

The greatest praise to you, the Son,
who is our liberator, with the Father
and the Holy Spirit for ever.

Instantis Adventus Dei

innocente ♩ = 60

Soprano

Alto

Chamber Organ

In - stan - tis ad - ven tum De - i pos - ca - mus ar - den - ti pre - ce,

3

fe - sti - que mu - nus in - cly - tum prae - o - ccu - pe - mus can - ti - cis.

5 verse 2.

Ae - ter - na pro - les fe - mi - nae non ho - rret in - clu - di si - nu;
Ae - ter - na pro - les fe - mi - nae non ho - rret in - clu - di si - nu;

7

fit ip - se ser - vus, ut iu - go nos ser - vi - tu - tis ex - i - mat.

fit ip - se ser - vus, ut iu - go nos ser - vi - tu - tis ex - i - mat.

9 verse 3.

Man - sue - tus et cle - mens ve - nit; O - ccu - rre, fe - sti - na, Si - on:

11

Ul - tro ti - bi quam po - rri - git Ne du - ra pa - cem re - spu - as.

Mox nu - be

13 verse 4.

Mox nu-be cla-ra ful-gu-rans mun-di re-di-bit ar-bi-ter,
cla-ra ful-gu-rans mun-di re-di-bit ar-bi-ter, sui-que mem-bra cor-po-

The musical score for measures 13 and 14 is written in 6/4 time. It features a vocal line with two parts and a piano accompaniment. The piano part consists of a right-hand melody and a left-hand bass line. The lyrics are in Latin and are printed below the vocal staves.

15

sui-que mem-bra cor-po-ris cae-lo tri-um-pha-tor ve-het.
ris cae-lo tri-um-pha-tor ve-het. ve-het.

The musical score for measures 15 and 16 is written in 4/4 time. It features a vocal line with two parts and a piano accompaniment. The piano part consists of a right-hand melody and a left-hand bass line. The lyrics are in Latin and are printed below the vocal staves.

17 verse 5.

Fe-tus te-ne-bra-rum, di-e ce-dant pro-pin-quo cri-mi-na
Fe-tus te-ne-bra-rum, di-e ce-dant pro-pin-quo cri-mi-na

The musical score for measures 17 and 18 is written in 4/4 time. It features a vocal line with two parts and a piano accompaniment. The piano part consists of a right-hand melody and a left-hand bass line. The lyrics are in Latin and are printed below the vocal staves.

19

A-dam re -for -me -tur ve -tus, i-me -go su - cce - dat no - vi.

A-dam re -for me -tur ve -tus, i-me -go su - cce - dat no -vi.

21 *verse 6.*

Qui li - be -ra - tor ad - ve - nis, Fi - li, ti - bi laus ma - xi - ma

Qui li - be -ra - tor ad - ve - nis, Fi - li, ti - bi laus ma - xi - ma

23

cum Pa - tre et al - mo Spi - ri - tu in sem - pi - ter - na sae - cu - la.

cum Pa - tre et al - mo Spi - ri - tu in sem - pi - ter - na sae - cu - la.

*For my grand-daughter Amy Hope
born on the first Sunday of Advent 2006*