

Ave nobilissima creatura,  
humillima virgo Maria,  
est tibi quasi osculum  
hunc audire versum angelicum:  
Ave Maria, gratia plena,  
Dominus tecum.  
Ergo ad imaginem tuam accedo,  
genua flecto, osculum imprimo,  
ave Maria dico.  
O domina gloriae, o regina laetitiae,  
angelorum domina, virginum gemma,  
omniumque sanctorum justitia,  
peccatorum consolatrix,  
infirmorum curatrix,  
errantium revocatrix,  
desolatorum auxiliatrix,  
mea promptissima adjutrix,  
virgo sancta Maria.

Tibi, domina gloriosa,  
commendo hodie et quotidie  
animam meam et corpus meum,  
ut me in tua custodia custodias,  
et ab omnibus malis  
et fraudibus diaboli  
me educas,  
et in ultima hora mortis meae  
constanter mihi assistas,  
et animam meam  
ad aeterna gaudia perducas,  
ubi tu, benedicta Maria,  
in vera caritate permanes  
cum Domino nostro Jesu Christo,  
Filio tuo dulcissimo,  
per infinita saecula saeculorum.  
Amen.

*Cantus firmus:*

Benedicta tu in mulieribus,  
et benedictus fructus ventris tui.

Hail, most noble creature,  
most humble virgin Mary;  
to you, it is like a kiss  
to hear this angelic verse:  
"Hail Mary, full of grace,  
the Lord is with you."  
So I draw near to your image,  
I bend my knees, I place a kiss:  
I say "Hail Mary."  
O mistress of glory, O queen of gladness,  
ruler of angels, jewel of virgins  
and judge of all the saints,  
consoler of sinners,  
healer of the infirm,  
finder of the lost,  
handmaiden of the desolate,  
my most prompt helper,  
holy virgin Mary.

To you, glorious lady,  
I commend today and every day  
my soul and my body,  
that you may guard me in your care,  
and from all evils  
and deceits of the devil  
deliver me,  
and in the final hour of my death  
unfailingly assist me,  
and lead my soul  
to the eternal joys,  
where you, blessed Mary,  
ever remain in true esteem  
with our Lord Jesus Christ,  
your most sweet Son,  
for unending ages of ages.  
Amen.

Blessed are you among women,  
and blessed is the fruit of your womb.

This motet was printed by Petrucci in 1519, Junta in 1527: *Motetti de la Corona, Libro tertio*. Our source: *Werken van Josquin des Prés*, ed. A. Smijers, Leipzig, 1938. We have raised the notation a fourth from the original and halved the time values. Translation, text underlay and *musica ficta* by

John Hetland and The Renaissance Street Singers.

20 Jun 2010

# Ave nobilissima creatura

Josquin Desprez  
(Northern French, partly res. in Italy; c.1440-1521)

*Hail most noble creature,*

1 7

S A - - ve no - bilís - si - ma cre - - - a - tú -

A1 A - - ve no - bilís - si - ma cre - -

A2 A - ve no - bilís - si - - ma, nobi - lís - si - - ma cre -

A3

T A - - -

B

Detailed description: This is the first system of a musical score for a six-part vocal setting. The staves are labeled S (Soprano), A1 (Alto 1), A2 (Alto 2), A3 (Alto 3), T (Tenor), and B (Bass). The music is in a key with two flats (B-flat and E-flat) and a common time signature. The lyrics are: 'A - - ve no - bilís - si - ma cre - - - a - tú -'. The Soprano part begins with a measure number '1' and ends with '7'. The Alto 1 part begins with 'A - - ve'. The Alto 2 part begins with 'A - ve'. The Alto 3 part is mostly silent. The Tenor part begins with 'A - - -'. The Bass part is mostly silent.

8 14

- - - ra

- - - a - - tú - - - - ra hu -

- a - tú - ra, cre - - a - tú - - - -

- ve no - bi - lís - si - ma cre - a - tú - - - - ra, hu -

A - - - ve no - bi - lís - si - ma cre - a - tú - - - -

Detailed description: This is the second system of the musical score. It continues from the first system. The staves are labeled S, A1, A2, A3, T, and B. The lyrics are: '- - - ra', '- - - a - - tú - - - - ra hu -', '- a - tú - ra, cre - - a - tú - - - -', '- ve no - bi - lís - si - ma cre - a - tú - - - - ra, hu -', and 'A - - - ve no - bi - lís - si - ma cre - a - tú - - - -'. The Soprano part begins with a measure number '8' and ends with '14'. The Alto 1 part begins with '- - - ra'. The Alto 2 part begins with '- - - a - - tú - - - - ra hu -'. The Alto 3 part begins with '- a - tú - ra, cre - - a - tú - - - -'. The Tenor part begins with '- ve no - bi - lís - si - ma cre - a - tú - - - - ra, hu -'. The Bass part begins with 'A - - - ve no - bi - lís - si - ma cre - a - tú - - - -'.



*angelic verse:*

29 34

-, quá - - - si ó - - - scu - - lum. :

-bi quá - si ó - - - - - - - - - sculum. :

hunc au-dí - - - re vér - - - - - sum

hunc au - dí - re vér - - - - -

hunc au - dí - re vér -

*"Hail Mary, full of grace,*

35 42

A - - ve Ma - rí - - a, grá -

A - - ve Ma - rí - - a, grá -

an - - gé - li - - - - - cum: A - ve Ma - rí - - a, grá -

-sum an - - gé - - - li - cum: A - ve Ma - rí - - a, grá -

- - - sum an gé - li - - - cum: A - ve Ma - rí - - a,

*(Blessed are you)*  
*the Lord is with you." So I draw*

43 50

-ti - a plé - - na, Dó - mi-nus té - - - - cum. Er - - go

-ti - a plé - - na, Dó - mi-nus té - - cum. Er - - go

-ti - - a plé - na, Dó - mi-nus té - - cum. Er - - go

Be - - - -

-ti - a plé - - na, Dó - mi-nus té - - - - cum. Er - -

grá - ti - a plé - - na, Dó - mi-nus té - - - cum. ad

*near to your image,*

51 56

ad i - má - gi - nem tú - - - - am ac-cé -

ad i - má - gi - nem tú - am ac - cé - - - do, ac -

ad i - má - gi - nem tú - am ac - cé - - - do, ac -

- - - - ne - - - - - - - - - - dí - - - - -

-go ad i - má - gi - nem tú - - - am ac-cé -

i - má - gi - nem tú - am ac-cé - do,

*I bend my knees, I place a kiss,*

57 62

do, gé - nu - a flé - cto, ó -  
 cé - do, gé - nu - a flé - cto, ó -  
 cé - do, gé - nu - a flé - cto, ó -  
 - - - - - cta  
 -do, ac - cé - do, gé - nu - a flé - cto,  
 ac - cé - do, ac - cé - do, gé - nu - a

*I say "Hail Mary."*

63 68

- - - scu - lum ím - pri - mo: A - ve Ma - rí -  
 - - - scu - lum ím - pri - mo: A - ve Ma - rí -  
 -cto, ó - scu - lum ím - pri - mo: A -  
 - - - - - tú  
 ó - sculum ímpri - mo, ó - scu - lum: A - ve Ma - rí -  
 flé - cto, ó - sculum ímpri - mo, ó - scu - lum: A - ve Ma - rí -



*angels, jewel of virgins*

82 86

-ae \_\_\_\_\_, vír - - gi - num \_\_\_\_\_

lae - tí - - ti - ae \_\_\_\_\_, vír - - gi - - - -

-tí - ti-ae, lae - tí - - ti - ae \_\_\_\_\_, vír gi - - - -

-bus \_\_\_\_\_

- ge - ló - - rum, an - - ge - ló - - rum dó - - mi - na

- rum, an - - ge - ló - - rum dó - mi - - - - na,

*and judge of all saints, (and*

87 91

gém - - - - - ma \_\_\_\_\_,

- - num gém - - - - - ma, o - mni - úm que

- num gém - - - - - ma, o - mni - úm - que san - ctó -

\_\_\_\_\_ et \_\_\_\_\_

o - - - - - mni - úm - que

o - mni - úm - que san - ctó - -



*blessed)*

*consoler of*

92

97

san-ctó rum, pec-ca-tó rum con-ju-stí-ti-a, con-be-ne-san-ctó rum ju-stí-ti-a, pec-ca-tó-rum rum ju-stí-ti-a, pec-ca-tó-rum

*sinner,*

*healer of the infirm,*

98

103

rum con-so-lá-trix, in-fir-mó-rum -so-lá-trix, con-so-lá-trix, in-firmó-rum cu-rá-trix -so-lá-trix, in-dí-ctus con-so-lá-trix, in-firmórum cu-rá-trix, con-so-lá-trix, in-firmó-rum cu-

*finder of the lost,*

104 109

— cu - rá - trix, er - rán - tium re - vo - cá - trix, de -

er - rán - ti - um re - vo - cá - - trix,

-firmó - rum cu - rá - - - trix, errán - ti - um re - vo - cá - trix,

er - rán - ti - um, er - rán - - ti - um re - vo - - cá - trix

- - - rá - trix,

Detailed description: This musical score is for the 'finder of the lost' section. It consists of six staves. The first staff is the vocal line, starting at measure 104 and ending at measure 109. The lyrics are: 'cu - rá - trix, er - rán - tium re - vo - cá - trix, de -'. The second staff continues the vocal line with 'er - rán - ti - um re - vo - cá - - trix,'. The third staff is a piano accompaniment line with lyrics '-firmó - rum cu - rá - - - trix, errán - ti - um re - vo - cá - trix,'. The fourth staff is a piano accompaniment line with lyrics 'er - rán - ti - um, er - rán - - ti - um re - vo - - cá - trix'. The fifth staff is a piano accompaniment line with lyrics '- - - rá - trix,'. The sixth staff is a piano accompaniment line. The key signature has one flat (Bb) and the time signature is 8/8.

*handmaiden of the desolate, my most prompt helper,  
(is the fruit of*

110 116

-so-la-tó - rum au - xi - li - á - trix, me - a promptís - si - ma

de - sola - tó - rum au - xi - li - á - trix, me - a promptíssi - ma ad jú -

me - a promptís - - - si - ma ad -

frú - - - - ctus

me - a promptíssi - ma ad -

me - a promptís - si - ma ad - - jú -

Detailed description: This musical score is for the 'handmaiden of the desolate, my most prompt helper' section. It consists of six staves. The first staff is the vocal line, starting at measure 110 and ending at measure 116. The lyrics are: '-so-la-tó - rum au - xi - li - á - trix, me - a promptís - si - ma'. The second staff continues the vocal line with 'de - sola - tó - rum au - xi - li - á - trix, me - a promptíssi - ma ad jú -'. The third staff is a piano accompaniment line with lyrics 'me - a promptís - - - si - ma ad -'. The fourth staff is a piano accompaniment line with lyrics 'frú - - - - ctus'. The fifth staff is a piano accompaniment line with lyrics 'me - a promptíssi - ma ad -'. The sixth staff is a piano accompaniment line with lyrics 'me - a promptís - si - ma ad - - jú -'. The key signature has one flat (Bb) and the time signature is 8/8.

*your womb.) holy Virgin Mary.*

117 122

ad - jú - trix, vír - - - go sán - - - cta, sán -  
- - - - - trix, vír - - - - - go sán - - - cta  
- jútrix, vír - - - go sán - - - cta  
vén - - - - - tri tú - - - - -  
-jú - - - trix, vír - go sán - - -  
-trix, vír - - - - - go sán - - - cta,

Detailed description: This block contains a musical score for six staves, numbered 117 to 122. The music is in a minor key with a 3/4 time signature. The lyrics are in Latin and describe the Virgin Mary. The score includes vocal lines and a basso continuo line. The lyrics are: 'ad - jú - trix, vír - - - go sán - - - cta, sán -', '- - - - - trix, vír - - - - - go sán - - - cta', '- jútrix, vír - - - go sán - - - cta', 'vén - - - - - tri tú - - - - -', '-jú - - - trix, vír - go sán - - -', and '-trix, vír - - - - - go sán - - - cta,'.

123 129

- - cta Ma - rí - a, Ma - - rí - - - a  
Ma - rí - - a, sán - - - cta Ma - rí - - - - - a  
- - - , vír - go sán - cta Ma - rí - a, Ma - rí - - - a  
- - - - - i.  
- cta Ma - rí - - - a, Ma - rí - - - a  
sán - - - cta Ma - - - rí - - - - - a

Detailed description: This block contains a musical score for six staves, numbered 123 to 129. The music continues from the previous block. The lyrics are: '- - cta Ma - rí - a, Ma - - rí - - - a', 'Ma - rí - - a, sán - - - cta Ma - rí - - - - - a', '- - - , vír - go sán - cta Ma - rí - a, Ma - rí - - - a', '- - - - - i.', '- cta Ma - rí - - - a, Ma - rí - - - a', and 'sán - - - cta Ma - - - rí - - - - - a'.



*and every day*

143 149

com - mén-do hó - di - e et

commén - do hó - di - e , hó - di - e

-sa , com-mén - do hó -

hó - di - e et quo-tí - di -

- ri - ó - sa, com-mén-do hó - di -

*my soul and my body,*

150 156

quo - tí - di - e

et quo - tí - di - e á - ni - mam mé - am et cór -

- di - e et quo - tí - di - e á - ni - mam mé -

- e á - - nimam mé - -

- e et quo-tí - di - e á - - nimam mé - am et cór -

*(Blessed are you) that you*

157 163

á - ni - mam mé - - am et cór - pus mé - um, ut me  
 - pus mé - um, et córpus mé - um, ut me in tú -  
 - - - - am et córpus mé - - - - um, ut me in  
 - - - - am et cór - pus mé - - um, ut me in tú -  
 - - - - am et cór - pus mé - - um, ut me in

*may guard me in your care,*

164 169

in tú - a cu - - stó - di - a - - - -  
 - - a cu - stó - di - a cu - stó - - - - di - - -  
 tú - - a custó - di - a cu - - stó - - di - as  
 - ne - - - - dí - - - - cta  
 - a - - - - cu - stó - di - a cu - stó - di - as,  
 tú a - - - - cu - stó - di - a - - - - cu - stó - di - as

*and from all evils and deceits of the devil*

170 175

cu - stó - di - as, et ab ó - mni - bus má -  
 -as, et ab ó - mni - bus má - lis,  
 et ab ó - mni - bus má -  
 et ab ó - mni - bus má - lis et fráu - di -

*(among women,)* *deliver me,*

176 181

- lis et fráu - dibus di - á - bo - li  
 má - lis et fráu - di - bus di -  
 - lis et fráu - di - bus di - á - bo -  
 fráu - di - bus di - á - bo - li me e - dú -  
 - bus di - á - bo - li

*and in the final hour of my*

182 187

me e-dú - - - cas, et in úl - - - ti-ma hó -  
 -á - bo - li me e - dú - - - cas,  
 -li me e - - dú - - cas, et  
 mu - - - li - - - é - - - ri - bus,  
 -cas, et in úl - - - ti-ma hó - ra mór -  
 me e - - - dú - - - cas, et in úl - ti -

*death*

*(and blessed)*

188 193

- - - ra mór - tis mé - ae  
 et in úl - - - ti-ma hó - ra mór - tis  
 in úl - - - ti-ma hó - ra mór - - - tis mé - ae con -  
 - - - tis mé - ae, hó-ra mór - tis mé - - -  
 -ma hó - ra mór - - - tis mé - - - ae





(is the fruit of your

207 212

am, et  
am, et  
et á-ni-mam mé - - - - - am, á - - - ni - mam  
frú - - - ctus vén - -  
et á-ni-mam mé - - - - - am, á - ni - mam mé -  
et á-ni-mam mé - am

womb.) to the eternal joys,

213 219

á - ni - - mam mé - - - am ad ae-tér - na,  
á - ni-mam mé - - - am, mé - - - am ad ae-tér - na,  
mé - - - - - am ad aetér - na,  
- - - tri tú - - - - - i  
am ad ae - tér - na, ad aetér -  
mé - - - - - am ad ae - tér - na, ad aetér -

220 226

ad ae-tér - na, ad aetér -  
ad ae-tér - na,  
ad aetér - na, ad ae-tér - na gáu -  
-na, ad ae-tér - na gáu - - di - a \_\_\_\_\_,  
-na, ad aetér - na gáu - di - a gáu - - di - a \_\_\_\_\_,

Detailed description: This block contains the musical score for measures 220 to 226. It features six staves. The top staff is a vocal line with lyrics. The second and third staves are piano accompaniment. The fourth staff is a double bass line. The fifth and sixth staves are additional vocal lines. The lyrics are in Latin: 'ad ae-tér - na, ad aetér - na, ad aetér - na gáu - na, ad ae-tér - na gáu - - di - a, -na, ad aetér - na gáu - di - a gáu - - di - a'.

*may you*  
227 232

-na gáu - - - di - a \_\_\_\_\_,  
ad ae-tér - na gáu - - -  
- - - di - a perdú - cas \_\_\_\_\_, per - dú - -  
ad ae-tér - na gáu - di - a  
ad aetér - na gáu - di - a per -

Detailed description: This block contains the musical score for measures 227 to 232. It features six staves. The top staff is a vocal line with lyrics. The second and third staves are piano accompaniment. The fourth staff is a double bass line. The fifth and sixth staves are additional vocal lines. The lyrics are in Latin: '-na gáu - - - di - a, ad ae-tér - na gáu - - -, - - - di - a perdú - cas, per - dú - -, ad ae-tér - na gáu - di - a, ad aetér - na gáu - di - a per -'.

*lead,* 233 *where you, blessed Mary,* 238

ad aeterna gaudia perducas, ubi tu, benedicta

di-a per dú cas, ú - - - bi tu, be - ne -

-cas, ú - bi tu, be - - - ne - - - dí - - -

Be - - -

per - - - dú - - - cas, ú - bi tu, be - ne - dí - - -

- - - - dú - - - cas, ú - bi tu, be - ne - dí - cta

*(Blessed are you) in true esteem*

239 244

tu, benedicta Maria, in vera caritate

tu, be - ne - - - dí - - - cta Ma - rí - - - a

-dí - cta Ma - - - - - rí - - - a, Ma - rí -

-cta, in vé-ra ca - - ri-tá - te

-ne - - - dí - - - cta tú

- cta Ma - rí - - - - - a, in vé-ra

Ma - rí - - - - a, in vé-ra ca - ri-tá - te per-

*ever remain with our Lord Jesus Christ,  
(among women,)*

245 250

cum Dó-mino nó-stro  
a, cum Dó-mino nó-stro Jé-  
pér-ma-nes cum  
in mu-li-é-ri-bus,  
ca-ri-tá-te pér-ma-nes  
-ma-nes cum Dó-mi-no nó-stro Jé-

*(and blessed)  
your most sweet Son,*

251 256

Jé-su-Chrí-sto,  
-su Chrí-sto, Fí-li-o  
Dó-mino nó-stro, Fí-li-o tú-o dulcís-si-  
et be-ne-dí-  
nes cum Fí-li-o tú-  
-su-Chrí-sto, Fí-li-o tú-o dulcís-si-

*for unending ages of ages.*

*(is the fruit of*

257 263

per in - - fi - ní - ta saecu - la sae - cu - ló - rum.  
 - tú - o dul - cís - si - mo, per in - fi - ní - ta saé - cu -  
 - mo, dul - cís - simo, per in - fi - ní - ta saé - cu - la sae - culó - -  
 - ctus frú - ctus vén - -  
 - o - - dul - cís - si - mo, per in - fi - ní - ta saé -  
 - mo, per in - fi - ní - ta saé - - cu - la sae - cu - ló -

*your womb.)  
 Amen.*

264 270

A - - - - - men.  
 - la saecu - lórum. A - - - - - men.  
 - rum. A - - - - - men.  
 - tri tú - - - - - i.  
 - cu - la sae - cu - ló - rum. A - - - - - men.  
 - rum. A - - - - - men.