IN DULCI JUBILO
...for SATB choir + organ

By composer Gustaaf Nees, of the Lemmensinstituut.

“In Dulci Jubilo” is a Roman Catholic Christmas carol going back to the 14th century. When the Protestant sects broke away from Rome, many of them adopted it, but they deleted (or bowdlerized) the 4th verse, which talks about the Blessed Virgin Mary. Many Americans know the tune, thanks to the contrafactum “Good Christian Men, Rejoice.” Gustaaf Nees (d. 1965), a Catholic organist, provides a splendidly bright setting of this ancient carol, and it appears below in a 2022 performance edition courtesy of Corpus Christi Watershed. Nees—known across the globe as a carillonneur—sets the words “trahe me post te” in a particularly evocative way. The section beginning with “péròditi essèmus” also demonstrates praiseworthy sensitivity to the text. Regarding slurs (over the same syllable), these have been included where—in the editor’s view—they help the singers. Singers bothered by the inconsistency are free to add any ‘missing’ slurs with a pencil.

In dulci júbilo
clamáte gáudio,
nobis gratiósus
hic in præsepío,
vt dies gloriósus
Matris in grémio:
Alpha est et O!

With sweet revelry
cry out in joy,
he who pleases us
here in a manger,
glorious as daylight
in his Mother’s lap:
he is the Alpha and O[mega]!

O Jesu párvule,
quem volo strénéue,
fruar lenitáte,
o Puer óptime,
de tua bonitáte,
o Princeps glóriae:
trahe me post te!

O little Jesus,
whom I desire strongly,
may I enjoy [thy] tenderness,
O best Child of all,
by thy goodness,
O Prince of glory:
draw me after thee!

Ubi sunt gáudia?
Regna caeléstia;
ales ibi cantat
nova cántica,
campána quoque clangat
in Regis cúria:
eja quália!

Where are joys found?
The heavenly realms;
there the winged one sings
new canticles,
and the bell rings
in the court of the King:
Ah, such things as these!

Mater et Fília,
o Virgo María,
péròdití essémus
per nostra crimina,
per te tamen habémus
caelórum gáudia:
quanta grátial

Mother and Daughter,
O Virgin Mary,
we were lost
through our wrongdoing,
but through thee we have
the joys of heaven:
what a grace!
Organ introduction:

1. In dul-ci jú-bi-lo clamá-te gáu-di-o, no-bis gra-ti-

Do not sing this too quickly:

ósus hic in præ-se-pi-o, ut di-es glo-ri-ó-sus Ma-tris in gré-mi-

Alpha est et O! Alpha est et O!

Organ interlude:
2. O Je-su pár-vu-le, quem vo-lo stré-nu-c, fru-ar le-ni-tá-te, o

O Je-su pár-vu-le, stré-nu-c, o Puer, Puer

Organist may use both hands; this is just to support the voices.

"There is no finer collection of truly faithful Roman Catholic texts set to elegant melodies (both traditional and new) than the Brébeuf Hymnal. Its choir and accompaniment books are eminently practical for small parish music programs yet worthy of Cathedrals." — Archdiocesan & Cathedral Director of Music (Holy Cross Cathedral, Boston) 7/21/2022

https://ocwatershed.org/hymn/
To be sung sweetly:

 tra-he me post te! tra-he me post te! tra-he me post te!

 tra-he me post te! tra-he me post te! tra-he me post te!

 tra-he me post te! tra-he me post te! tra-he me post te!

tra-he me post te! tra-he me post te! tra-he me post te!

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of America weblog (10 June 2013)

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per di-ti es-se-mus per nostra crí-mi-na,
per te ta-men ha-bé-mus, ha-bé-mus cae-ló-rum gáu-di-a:
Organ interlude:

SANSA

TB

O

Sweetly and slowly:

S

A

T

B

“"The editors of the Brébeuf Hymnal have done a great service to the profession [in this] extensively researched volume worthy of careful study by liturgical musicians. This detailed exploration of classic Latin hymnody and its English translations is not only a labor of love, but an original contribution to research, and I hope that the results of this research project are shared more widely for the use of musicologists and liturgical historians.”


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