

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 “pérditi essémus” 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 praesépio, ut 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 strénue, fruar lenitáte, o Puer óptime, de tua bonitáte, o Princeps glóriæ: 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, pérditi essémus per nostra crímina, per te tamen habémus caelórum gáudia: quanta grátia!	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:

Musical score for organ introduction, featuring a treble and bass clef with a key signature of two sharps (F# and C#). The piece begins with a melodic line in the treble and a supporting bass line, including some sustained notes and a final cadence.

SA ¹¹ *Do not sing this too quickly:*

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

Vocal line for Soprano and Alto (SA) with lyrics. The organ accompaniment is marked *p* and consists of sustained chords in both hands.

SA ¹⁷

ó - sus hic in prae - sé - pi - o, ——— ut di - es glo - ri - ó - sus Ma - tris in gré - mi -

Vocal line for Soprano and Alto (SA) with lyrics. The organ accompaniment continues with sustained chords.

SA ²³

o: ——— Al - pha est et O! ——— Al - pha est et O!

Organ interlude:

Vocal line for Soprano and Alto (SA) with lyrics. The organ accompaniment includes a section labeled "Organ interlude" with a more active melodic line in the treble.

²⁹

Organ accompaniment for the final phrase, featuring a treble and bass clef with a key signature of two sharps. It includes a melodic line in the treble and a supporting bass line, ending with a final cadence.

39

S
2. O Je - su pár - vu - le, _____ quem vo - lo stré - nu - e, _____ fru - ar le - ni - tá - te, o

A
2. O Je - su pár - vu - le, _____ quem vo - lo stré - nu - e, _____ fru - ar le - ni - tá - te, o

T
2. O Je - su pár - vu - le, _____ quem vo - lo stré - nu - e, _____ fru - ar le - ni - tá - te, o

B
O Je - su pár - vu - le, _____ stré - nu - e, _____ o Pu - er, Pu -

O
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://ccwatershed.org/hymn/>

46

S
Pu - er ó - pti - me, _____ de tu - a bo - ni - tá - te, o Prin - ceps gló - ri - ae: _____

A
Pu - er ó - pti - me, _____ de tu - a bo - ni - tá - te, o Prin - ceps gló - ri - ae: _____

T
Pu - er ó - pti - me, _____ de tu - a bo - ni - tá - te, o Prin - ceps gló - ri - ae: _____

B
-er ó - pti - me, de tu - a bo - ni - tá - te, _____

O

52 *To be sung sweetly:*

S tra-he me post te!__ tra-he me post te! tra-he me post te!

A tra-he me post te!__ tra- he me

T tra-he me post te!__ tra- he me, tra-he me post te!__

B tra-he me post te! tra - he me post te!__ tra-he me post te!

“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://ccwatershed.org/hymn/>

60 *Organ interlude:*

67

72

D T L S F M S F M D R M R D R L T D R M F S F S L

SA U - bi sunt gáu - di - a? Re -

TB U - bi sunt gáu - di - a?

76 T L S D T L S D T L S F M S F M D R M R D R L T D R M F S F S L

SA - - - gna cae - lé - sti - a,

TB - - - Re - gna cae - lé - sti - a;

O

80 T L S D T L S M R D T D R D R M F S L S D T L

SA a - les i - - bi can - -

TB a - les i - - bi can - -

O

“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://ccwatershed.org/hymn/>

84 D S F M R D T D R R M F S T D S D R M D S T D D

SA - tat, can - tat no - va cán - ti - ca, cán - ti - ca, cam -

TB -tat no - va cán - ti - ca, cam -

O

89 M R D T D R D R M F S L S D T L D S F M R D T D R R M F S T

SA pá - na quo - - que clan - gat in Re - gis

TB pá - na quo - que clan - gat in Re - gis

O

94 D S D R M D S T D

SA cú - ri - a:

TB cú - ri - a: e - ja quá - li - a!

O

99

S 4. Ma - ter et Fí - li - a, *div.* o Vir - go Ma - rí - a,

A *Tenors enter on an F, an octave higher than the F sung by the basses:* 4. Ma - ter et Fí - li - a, o Vir - go Ma - rí - a,

T 4. Ma - ter et Fí - li - a, o Vir - go Ma - rí - a,

B e - ja quá - li - a! o Vir - go Ma - rí - a,

O

The Brébeuf Hymnal **“has no parallel and not even any close competitor.”**

—Author for the Church Music Association
of America weblog (10 June 2022)

<https://ccwatershed.org/hymn>

105

S *pér - di - ti es - sé - mus per*

A *pér - di - ti es - sé - mus per no - stra*

T *pér - di - ti es - sé - mus per no - stra* *crí -*

B *pér - di - ti es - sé - mus per no - stra crí - mi - na, pér - di - ti es - sé - mus per*

111

S *no - stra crí - mi - na*

A *crí - mi - na, per te ta - men ha -*

T *mi - na, per te ta - men ha - bé - -*

B *no - stra crí - mi - na, per te ta - men ha - bé - mus, ha - bé - -*

116

S *per te ta - men ha - bé - mus cae - ló - rum gáu - di - a:*

A *bé - mus cae - ló - rum gáu - di - a:*

T *mus cae - ló - rum gáu - di - a, gáu - di - a:*

B *mus cae - ló - rum gáu - di - a, gáu - di - a:*

121 *Organ interlude:*

SA
TB
O
B

quan-ta grá-ti - a! _____

quan-ta grá-ti - a! _____



128 *Sweetly and slowly:*

S
A
T
B

quan - ta grá - ti - a!

quan - ta grá - ti - a! quan - ta grá - ti - a!

quan - ta grá - ti - a!

quan - ta grá - ti - a! _____

“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.”

— *Journal of the Society for Catholic Liturgy* (Vol. 23.2, 2019)

<https://ccwatershed.org/hymn>

The Father Brébeuf Hymnal **“has no parallel and not even any close competitor.”**

— Author for the *Church Music Association of America* weblog (10 June 2022)