



Te Joseph Celebrent

A Hymn for the Feast of St Joseph

For Soprano and Alto voices with Chamber Organ

Words in Latin from the Liturgia Honarium

Music by Nigel Morgan

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with Chamber Organ*

*Words attributed to Fr. Juan Escollar
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About The Piece

This is a through-composed hymn for the Feast of St Joseph dedicated to a friend whose birthday falls on this important feast day of the Roman Church.

The 17C text in Latin is taken from the *Liturgia Honarium* and is attributed to Fr. Juan Escollar. It is usually sung at Vespers on the Feast of St Joseph on 19 March and on the Feast of St Joseph the Worker on 1 May.

John O'Connell has written:

Devotion to Joseph largely derives from the realization that he possessed a supremely exalted vocation and mission. One of the stanzas from the hymn *Te Joseph Celebrent* expresses the sublimity of Joseph's vocation:

*Other saints receive their beatitude after death
They receive their glory when they have won the palm:
But thou, by a strangely happy lot, hadst even during life,
What the blessed have in heaven—the sweet society of thy God*

St. Matthew in his Gospel states that Joseph was a “just man.” Joseph loved the Torah: he faithfully fulfilled his duties to both God and his neighbor. Joseph was a man of great virtue. It makes spiritual sense that God would grant extraordinary graces to the one whom had received such a sublime vocation. And Joseph, the “just man,” cooperated fully with the graces God bestowed upon him.

Te Joseph Celebrent is imagined for a small choir of women's voices with chamber organ accompaniment. It is the second part of sequence of 12 Festal Hymns that celebrate significant feasts and seasons in the Church year.

1.

Te, Joseph, celebrent agmina cœlitum
Te cuncti résonent christiádum chori
Qui clarus meritis junctus et inclytæ
Casto fœdere Virgini.

2.

Almo cum tumidam germine conjugem
admirans dubio tangeris anxius,
afflatu superi flaminis angelus
conceptum puerum docet.

3.

Tu natum Dominum stringis ad dexteras,
Ægypti profugum tu sequeris plagas:
amissum Solymis qæris et invenis,
miscens gaudia fletibus.

4.

Post mortem reliquos sors pia consecrat,
Palmanque emeritos gloria suscipit:
Tu vivens, superis par, frûeris Deo
Mira sorte beatior.

5.

Nobis Summa Trias parce precantibus:
da Joseph meritis sidera scandere,
ut tandem liceat at nos tibi perpetim,
gratum promere canticum.

1.

Let the hosts of heaven celebrate you, Joseph,
Let all the choirs of Christendom resound you
who, famous for your merits,
was joined to the glorious Virgin in chaste wedlock.

2.

When your betrothed became great with precious seed,
amazement and doubt made you anxious.
It is by the breath of the divine Spirit,
an Angel tells you, that the son has been conceived.

3.

You did embrace the new-born Lord,
and to the furthest Egypt coasts you followed Him in exile,
Lost in Jerusalem, you sought and found Him,
mixing joy with tears.

4.

After death most are blest by a loving destiny
and, when they have won the palm, they are welcomed into glory.
But you, while you lived, like the saints above, were with God,
blest more than others by this wondrous lot.

5.

Spare us, highest Trinity, as we pray,
Grant that through Joseph's merits we may rise to heaven,
So that at last we may offer perpetually
our grateful songs.

Te Joseph Celebrent

nobilmente ♩ = 75

Soprano

Alto

Chamber Organ

f

Te, Jo - seph, *f* ce - le - brent ag - mi - na cae - li - tum Te cunc -

Te, Jo - seph, ce - le - brent ag - mi - na

5

- ti re - so - nent chri - sti - a - dum cho - ri Qui cla - rus me - ri - tis junc - tus et in - cly - tae ca - sto

cae - li - tum Te cunc - ti re - - so - nent Ca - - sto foe - de -

verse 2.

mf

9

foe - de - re Vir - gi - ni. Al - mo cum tu - mi - dam ger - mi - ne con - ju - gem ad - mi -

- - re Vir - gi - ni. tu - mi - dam ger - mi - ne con - ju - gem

14

- rans du - bi - o tan - ge - ris an - xi - us a - ffla - tu su - pe - ri fla - mi - nis an - ge - lus con - cep - - tum pu - e - rum do -

ad - mi - rans du - - bi - o tan - ge - ris an - xi - us con - cep - tum pu - e - rum do -

19

verse 3.
con spirito

f

- cet. Tu na - tum Do - mi - num strin - gis ad dex - te - ras Ae - gip - ti pro - fu -

- cet. Tu na - tum Do - mi - num strin - gis ad dex - te - ras Ae - gip - ti

24

mf *f*

gum tu se - que - ris pla - gas: a - mi - ssum So - ly - mis qae - ris et in - ve - nis, mi - scens gau - di - a

pro - fu - gum a - mi - ssum So - ly - mis qae - ris et in - ve - nis, mi - scens gau - di - a

verse 4.
devoto e calmo

28

p *pp* *mp*

p *pp* *mp*

fle - ti - bus. Post mor - tum re - li - quos sors pi - a con - se - crat, Pal - man - que e - me - ri - tos glo - ria

fle - ti - bus. Post mor - tum re - li - quos sors pi - a con - se - crat, Pal - man - que e - me - ri - tos glo - ria

34

p *pp* *mp*

p *pp* *mp*

su - sci - pit: Tu vi - vens, su - pe - ris par, fru - e - ris De - o Mi - ra sor - te be - a - ti - or.

su - sci - pit: Tu vi - vens, su - pe - ris par, fru - e - ris De - o Mi - ra sor - te be - a - ti - or.

verse 5.
con attenzione

40

f

No - bis Su - mma Tri - as da Jo - seph me - ri - tis si - de - ra scan - de - re,

f

No - bis Su - mma Tri - as par - ce pre - can - ti - bus: da Jo - seph me - ri - tis si - de - ra scan - de - re, ut tan - dem

45

mp

ut tan - dem li - ceat at nos ti - bi gra - tum pro - me - re can - ti - cum. A - men

mp

li - ceat at nos ti - bi per - pe - tim, gra - tum pro - me - re can - ti - cum. A - men

for Helga Watts