

RORATE COELI (DROP DOWN, O HEAVEN)

for SSATB Choir

Vulgate Bible: Isaiah 45:8, Psalm 84:8
Prosodic English translation by William J. Bullock

Giovanni Luigi da Palestrina
Part 2 of *Canite tuba in Sion*
Edited by William J. Bullock
2014

[♩ = c. 112] *mf* 2014

Soprano 1

Soprano 2

Alto

Tenor

Bass

Reduction

5

mf *mf*

Ro - ra - te coe - li, de - sup - er, ro - ra - ra -
Drop down, O heav - en, from on high drop down, -
Ro - ra - te coe - li, de - sup - er, ro - ra -
Drop down, O heav - en, from on high, drop down, -
- te coe - li, de - sup - er, et nu - bes plu - ant ju -
O heav - en, from on high; et let clouds rain down the Just -
- te coe - li, de - sup - er, et nu - bes plu - ant ju -
O heav - en, from on high; et let clouds rain down the Just -
- te coe - li, de - sup - er, et nu - bes plu - ant ju -
O heav - en, from on high; et let clouds rain down the Just -

Editorial accretions include: (1) indication of shifts between duple and triple meter: the \vee symbol denotes stress, the \sim symbol denotes unstress, brackets above staves denote triple meter; (2) indication of ends of internal phrases (and sometimes possible breath spots) with a dot and line on certain notes; (3) suggested tempo, dynamics, and articulations. Note values have been halved and the key transposed down a major second.

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9

stum,
One, *et*
let

stum,
One,

stum,
One, *mf* *Ro - ra - te* *coe - li* *de - sup - er, et*
Drop down, O heav - en, from on high, let

Ro - ra - te *coe - li* *de - sup - er, et*
Drop down, O heav - en, from on high, let
mf

Ro - ra - te *coe - li* *de - sup - er, et*
Drop down, O heav - en, from on high, let

13

nu *bes* *plu* *ant* *ju* *stum,* *et* *nu* *bes*
clouds rain down the Just One, let clouds rain,

et *nu* *bes* *plu*
let clouds rain down

nu *bes* *plu* *ant* *ju* *stum,* *et* *nu* *bes* *plu*
clouds rain down the Just One, let clouds rain down

nu *bes* *plu* *ant* *ju* *stum,* *et* *nu* *bes* *plu*
clouds rain down the Just One, let clouds rain down

nu *bes* *plu* *ant* *ju* *stum,* *et* *nu* *bes* *plu*
clouds rain down the Just One, let clouds rain down

17

et nu - bes plu - ant ju -
 let clouds rain down the Just -

ant ju - - - stum, et nu - bes plu - ant ju -
 the Just - - - One. let clouds rain down the Just -

ant ju - - - stum, et nu - bes plu - ant ju -
 the Just - - - One. let clouds rain down the Just -

ant ju - - - stum, et nu - bes plu - ant ju -
 the Just - - - One. let clouds rain down the Just -

ant ju - - - stum, et nu - bes plu - ant ju -
 the Just - - - One. let clouds rain down the Just -

21

mp
 stum, a - pe - ri - a - tur ter - ra,
 One. Re - vived, the earth will blos - som,

mp
 stum, a - pe - ri - a - tur
 One. Re - vived, the earth will

mp
 stum, a - pe - ri - a - tur ter - ra,
 One. Re - vived, the earth will blos - som,

mp
 stum, a - pe - ri - a - tur
 One. Re - vived, the earth will

mp
 stum, a - pe - ri - a - tur
 One. Re - vived, the earth will



25

a - pe - ri - a - tur ter - ra,
re - vived, the earth will blos - som,
ter - ra, a - pe - ri - a - tur ter - ra,
blos - som, re - vived, the earth will blos - som,
re - vived, the earth will blos - som,
re - vived, the earth will ter - ra,
a - pe - ri - a - tur blos - som, re - vived, the earth will ter - ra,
a - pe - ri - a - tur

29

p et ger - mi - net sal - va - to - rem,
re - veal - ing its fruit, our sav - ior,
p et ger - mi - net sal - va - to - rem,
p et ger - mi - net sal - va - to - rem,
blos - som, re - veal - ing its fruit, our sav - ior,
ter - ra, a - pe - ri - a - tur blos - som, et re -
ter - ra, a - pe - ri - a - tur blos - som, et re -

*Alto and Tenor parts switched within ♮ symbols

33

et ger - mi - net sal -
re - veal - ing its fruit,

et ger - mi - net sal -
re - veal - ing its fruit,

et ger - mi - net sal - va to - rem, sal -
re - veal - ing its fruit, our sav - ior, fruit,

ger - mi - net sal - va - to - rem, et ger - mi - net sal -
veal - ing its fruit, our sav - ior, re - veal - ing its fruit,

ger - mi - net sal - va to - rem,
veal - ing its fruit, our sav - ior,

37

- va to - rem. O Dis - sten - de no - bis
our sav - ior. play to us, 0

- va to rem. O Dis - sten - de no - bis
our sav - ior. play to us, 0

- va to - rem. O Dis - sten - de no - bis
our sav - ior. play to us, 0

- va to rem. O Dis - sten - de no - bis
our sav - ior. play to us, 0

O Dis - sten - de no - bis
play to us, 0



42

mp

Do - mi - ne mi - se - ri - cor - di - am
 Lord, our God, your ten - der, mer - ci - ful

mp

Do - mi - ne mi - se - ri - cor - di - am tu -
 Lord, our God, your ten - der, mer - ci - ful kind -

* *mp*

Do - mi - ne mi - se - ri - cor - di - am
 Lord, our God, your ten - der, mer - ci - ful

* *mp*

Do - mi - ne mi - se - ri - cor - di - am
 Lord, our God, your ten - der, mer - ci - ful

Do - mi - ne
 Lord, our God,

46

mp

tu - am
 kind - ness, your se - ri - cor - di - am...
 ci - ful...

am
 ness, mi - se - ri - cor - di - am
 your ten - der, mer - ci - ful

tu - am
 kind - ness, mi - se - ri - cor - di - am tu -
 kind -

tu - am
 kind - ness, mi - se - ri - cor - di - am
 your ten - der, mer - ci - ful

mp

mi - se - ri - cor - di - am
 your ten - der, mer - ci - ful

*Alto and Tenor note switched

50

p
p
p
p
p

tu kind - - - am ness, et And sa grant to - ta - re tu gra - um
 kind - - - am ness, et And sa grant to - ta - re your tu gra - um
 kind - - - am ness, et And sa grant to - ta - re your tu gra - um
 kind - - - am ness, et And sa grant to - ta - re your tu gra - um
 kind - - - am ness, et And sa grant to - ta - re your tu gra - um

da sal - no va - bis, tion, et and sa grant to - ta - re tu gra - um
 sal - va - bis, tion, et and sa grant to - ta - re tu gra - um
 sal - va - bis, tion, et and sa grant to - ta - re tu gra - um
 sal - va - bis, tion, et and sa grant to - ta - re tu gra - um
 sal - va - bis, tion, et and sa grant to - ta - re tu gra - um

54

p
p
p
p
p

et and sa grant to - ta - re tu gra - um
 da sal - no va - bis, tion, et and sa grant to - ta - re tu gra - um
 da sal - no va - bis, tion, et and sa grant to - ta - re tu gra - um
 da sal - no va - bis, tion, et and sa grant to - ta - re tu gra - um
 da sal - no va - bis, tion, et and sa grant to - ta - re tu gra - um

...tu - um
 ...gra - cious
 ...tu - um
 ...gra - cious
 ...tu - um
 ...gra - cious

58

mf

da - no - bis. Ve - ni Do
sal - va - tion. Quick - ly come, mi -

mf

da - no - bis. Ve - ni Do
sal - va - tion. Quick - ly come, mi -

mf

da - no - bis. Ve - ni Do
sal - va - tion. Quick - ly come, mi -

mf

da - no - bis. Ve - ni Do
sal - va - tion. Quick - ly come, mi -

mf

Ve - ni Do mi
Quick - ly come, ne,

mf

Ve - ni Do mi
Quick - ly come, ne, Lord

62

mp

ne, quick - ni Do
Lord, ly come, mi - ne; et no - li
mf Lord; ap - pear with -

mp

Ve - ni Do mi - ne, ve - ni Do mi - ne et no - li
Quick - ly come, ne, quick - ly come, ne; ap - pear with -

mp

ve - ni Do mi - ne
quick - ly come, ne; Lord;

mp

Ve - ni Do mi - ne,
Quick - ly come, ne, Lord,

*Alto and Tenor parts switched within □ symbols

66

tar out - da - re, de - lay, *mf*

ve - ni Quick - ly Do come, - mi - ne, O Lord, et ap - pear with - out - no - li - tar - out - da - de -

mp

tar out - da - re, de - lay, et ap - pear with - out - no - li - tar - out - da - de -

mp

ve - ni Quick - ly Do come, - mi - ne, O Lord, et ap - pear with - out - no - li - tar - out - da - de -

mp

ve - ni Quick - ly Do come, - mi - ne, O Lord, et ap - pear with - out - no - li - tar - out - da - de -

71

mf

ve - ni Quick - ly Do come, - mi - ne, O Lord, et ap - pear with - out - no - li - tar - out - da - de -

mp

ni ly Do come, - mi - ne, O Lord; et ap - pear with - out - no - li - tar - out - da - de -

mf

re, lay, quick - ly Do come, - mi - ne, O Lord; et ap - pear with - out - no - li - tar - out - da - de -

mp

re, lay,



75 *f*
re. lay. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le -
re. lay. Al - le - lu - ia, al -
f
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le -
f
re. lay. Al - le - lu - ia, — al - le - lu - ia,
f
Al - le - lu - ia, — al - le - lu - ia,
Al - le - lu - ia, — al - le - lu - ia,

79
lu - ia, — al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia,
le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia,
lu - ia, — al - le - lu - ia, al - le -
al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia,
al - le - lu - ia, al - le -

*Alto and Tenor parts switched within □ symbols

83

al - le - lu - ia, al - le -

al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu -

lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le

al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu -

lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia,

ff

87

rall.
ff

lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

ff

ia, al - le - lu - ia.

ff

lu - ia.

ff

ia, al - le - lu - ia.

ff

al - le - lu - ia.

ABOUT:

This Advent motet from Renaissance master Giovanni Pierluigi da Palestrina is given an expressive English translation in this new edition, illuminating its pleas to the heavens for the advent of a savior.

FROM THE COMPOSER:

The plea for the advent of a Savior is traditionally voiced with the Latin advent text "Rorate coeli" ("Drop Down, O Heavens"), a text that has been sung for centuries - first as plainsong, then as motets and anthems. This noble setting is by the master of the Renaissance a cappella motet, Palestrina (1525–1594). It constitutes the second part of the composer's two-part motet "Canite tuba in Sion", which was published in 1572.

In five voices (sopranos divided), the motet moves ineluctably forward in the style of the times: diverse but similar melodic motives (one for each text phrase) imitated among voices in successive, overlapping sections. Motives often encapsulate the sense of a text phrase, as when iterations of the motive set to the phrase "quickly come" abut one another more closely than do other motives. The motet concludes joyously with undulant "alleluias".

DURATION: ~3'30"



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Additional octavos are available for purchase from the publisher online.



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