

O virgo virginum

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Moderato (♩ = c. 108)

Soprano 1 *sfz*
O, — o,

Soprano 2 *p*
O, — o, — o, — o, — o, — o, — o, — o, — o,

Alto *p*
O, —

6

vir - go — vir - gi - num, vir - go, vir - go vir - gi - num,

o, — vir - go vir - gi - num, vir - go vir - gi - num,

o, vir - go vir - gi - num, vir — gi - num,

12

poco più mosso (♩ = 130)
Qui - a nec pri-mam,

poco più mosso (♩ = 130)
Qui - a nec pri-mam si - mi - lem,

poco più mosso (♩ = 130)
Quo - mo - do fi - et is - tud?

33

Meno mosso (♩ = 60)

p my - - - -

p my - - - - ste - ri - um

vi - num, di - vi - num est, di vi num, di vi - num est,

37

ste - ri - um my - - - -

my - - - - ste - ri - um my - - - - ste - ri - um

vi - num, di - vi - num est, di vi - num, di - vi - num est,

41

ste - ri - um my - - - - ste - ri - um.

my - - - - ste - ri - um my - - - - ste - ri - um hoc, quod cer - ni - tis.

vi - num, di - vi - num est, vi - num.

46 **Moderato** (♩ = c. 108) *sfz*

O, —

p O, — o, — o, — o, — o, — o, — o,

Moderato (♩ = c. 108)

p O, —

50

o, — vir - go — vir - gi - num,

o, — o, — o, — o, — vir - go vir - gi - num,

— o, vir - go vir - gi - num,

O virgo virginum is part of the so-called *O antiphons*, the magnificat antiphons of the 7 days before Christmas. Although Roman use has only 7, many liturgical traditions increase the number of antiphons in this series. Sarum use adds this one on December 17th. It extends the famous achrostic verse *ero cras* (I will be (with thee) tomorrow) to *vero cras* (truly tomorrow).

O virgo virginum
 quomodo fiet istud?
 Quia nec primam similem visa es
 nec habere sequentem.
 Filiae Ierusalem
 quid me admiramini?
 Divinum est mysterium hoc
 quod cernitis.

O Virgin of Virgins
 How shall this take place?
 Neither before thee was there any like Thee,
 Nor after.
 Maidens of Jerusalem
 Why do you wonder in me?
 It is a divine mystery
 this which you behold.