

Ecce fidelis servus

for the Feast of St. Joseph

Gabriel Fauré (1845 - 1924)
Op. 54

Andante ♩ = 72

SOPRANO

ALTO

TENOR

BASS

Organ

p

Ec - ce _____ fi - de - lis, fi - de - lis ser - vus et _____

Ec - ce _____ fi - de - lis, fi - de - lis ser - vus et _____

5

S.

A.

T.

B.

Org.

pru - dens, Ec - ce, ec - ce fi - de - lis, fi - de - lis ser - vus et pru -

pru - dens, Ec - ce, ec - ce fi - de - lis, fi - de - lis ser - vus et pru -

9

S. *p*
dens, Quem cons - ti - tu - it___ Do - mi-nus su - per fa - mi - li - am

A.

T.

B. *p*
dens, Quem cons - ti - tu - it___ Do - mi-nus su -

Org.

13

S. su - am, su - per fa - mi - li - am su - - am.

A. *mp*
Jus - tus ger - mi

T. *mp*
Jus - tus ger - mi

B. per fa - mi - li - am, fa - mi - li - am___ su - - am.

Org.

17

S.

A.

T.

B.

Org.

na - bit si - cut li - li - um et flo - re - bit in ae -

na - bit si - cut li - li - um et flo - re - bit in ae -

21

S.

A.

T.

B.

Org.

ter - num an - te Do - mi - num.

ter - num an - te Do - mi - num.

poco rit

poco rit

24 *a tempo*

S. *p*
Ec - ce _____ fi - de - lis, fi - de - lis ser - vus et pru - dens,

A. *p*, *pp sempre*
Ec - - ce fi - de - lis ser - vus,

T. *p*, *pp sempre*
Ec - - ce fi - de - lis ser - vus,

B. *p*
Ec - ce _____ fi - de - lis, fi - de - lis ser - vus et pru - dens,

Org. *p a tempo*

28 *p*

S. *p*
Ec - ce, ec - ce fi - de - lis, fi - de - lis ser - vus et pru - dens, Quem cons -

A. *p*
fi - de - lis et pru - dens, Ec -

T. *p*
fi - de - lis et pru - dens, Ec -

B. *p*
Ec - ce, ec - ce fi - de - lis, fi - de - lis ser - vus et pru - dens, Ec -

Org. *p*, *pp*

32

S. ti - tu - it Do - mi - nus su - per fa - mi - li - am su - am.

A. ce ser - vus, Ec - ce ser - vus.

T. ce ser - vus, Ec - ce ser - vus.

B. ce ser - vus, Ec - ce ser - vus.

Org.

36

S. A - men. A - - - - - men. *pp* *poco rit.*

A. A - men. A - - - - - men. *pp*

T. A - men. A - - - - - men. *pp*

B. A - men. A - - - - - men. *pp*

Org. *pp* *poco rit.*

Composer Biography

Gabriel Fauré's (1845-1924) talent became clear when he was a small boy. At the age of nine, he was sent to a music school in Paris, where he was trained to be a church organist and choirmaster. Among his teachers was Camille Saint-Saëns, who became a lifelong friend. In October 1871, Fauré was appointed choirmaster at the Church of Saint Sulpice in Paris under the composer and organist Charles-Marie Widor, where he composed several canticles and motets. In 1874 Fauré moved from Saint Sulpice to the fashionable Church of the Madeleine, acting as the assistant organist to Saint-Saëns. In 1877 he was named choirmaster at the Madeleine, where he stayed with the "geese" (Fauré's fond nickname for the choir's boy trebles and altos), for nearly 20 years. Finally in 1896 he was appointed both principal organist at the Madeleine Church and professor of composition at the Paris Conservatory. During his tenure at the Church of the Madeleine he composed his most famous work, the *Requiem* (1887-88).

During the forty years of his musical career, Fauré composed more than a dozen Latin motets for liturgical use. These choral miniatures are essentially simple, practical pieces that are well suited for worship, yet their simplicity is deceptive. Fauré's gentle expressiveness avoids the cloying sentimentality of so much of the European sacred music that was composed at the turn of the 19th century. Harmonically subtle, Fauré's vocal writing avoids that which is predictable and obvious, and as such he left a body of sacred choral works that, more than a century later, are as joyous and refreshing for the singer as they are moving for the listener. Among Faure's sacred works is this little known setting of *Ecce Fidelis Servus* which was composed in 1887 and revised in 1893. This motet was set for the typical French liturgical choir of the time: boys/"enfants" (soprano) and men (tenors and basses), accompanied by harmonium (reed organ without pedals) and string bass doubling the lower octave of the organ part.

Pronunciation Guide

<i>Ecce fidelis servus et prudens,</i>	ECK-chay fee-DEH-lees SEHR-voos eht PROO-dens
<i>Quem constituit Dominus</i>	Kwehm cohn-stee-TOO-eet DAW-mee-noos
<i>super familiam suam.</i>	SOO-pehr fah-MEE-lee-ahm SOO-ahm.
<i>Iustus germinabit sicut lilium</i>	YOO-stoos jehr-mee-NAH-beet SEE-koot LEE-lee-oom
<i>Et florebit in aeternum ante Dominum.</i>	Eht floh-RAY-beet een aye-TEHR-noom AHN-teh DAW-mee-noom.

*Vowels should be tall and pure (no diphthongs) and the "r's" flipped.

Translation

<i>Ecce fidelis servus et prudens,</i>	Behold the wise and faithful servant,
<i>Quem constituit Dominus</i>	Whom the Lord
<i>super familiam suam.</i>	places at the head of his family.
<i>Iustus germinabit sicut lilium</i>	The Just will grow and flourish
<i>Et florebit in aeternum ante Dominum.</i>	Like the lily forever before the Lord.