

O Salutaris Hostia

fr. Messe Brève

St. Thomas Aquinas (1225 - 1274)

Léo Delibes (1836 - 1891)

Andante Sostenuto (♩. = c.46-52)

Soprano

Alto

Keyboard

p

O sa - lu - ta - ris,

7

sa - lu - ta - ris Hos - ti - a, Quae cae - li pan - dis, pan - dis os - ti - um.

13

pp

O sa - lu - ta - ris, sa - lu - ta - ris Hos - ti - a, Quae cae - li pan - dis,

pp

O sa - lu - ta - ris, sa - lu - ta - ris Hos - ti - a, Quae cae - li pan - dis,

19 *mf*

pan - dis os - ti - um. _____ Bel - la _____ pre - munt, pre - munt hos - ti - li - a, _____

pan - dis os - ti - um. _____

25 *f* *rit.* *a tempo* *pp*

Bel - la _____ pre - munt, pre - munt hos - ti - li - a. O sa - lu - ta - ris,

mf *f* *pp*

Bel - la _____ pre - munt, pre - munt hos - ti - li - a. O sa - lu - ta - ris,

mf *f* *dim. e rit.* *a tempo* *p*

31

sa - lu - ta - ris Hos - ti - a, Quae cae - li pan - dis, pan - dis os - ti - um. _____

sa - lu - ta - ris Hos - ti - a, Quae cae - li pan - dis, pan - dis os - ti - um. _____

37

Da ro - bur, fer au - xi - li - um, au - xi - li - um. Da ro - bur, fer

43

rall.

au - xi - li - um. O sa - lu - ta - ris Hos - ti - a.

rall.

Biography:

Leo Delibes (1836-1891) enrolled in the Paris Conservatory in 1847 at the age of 11 and studied composition with Adolphe Adam, the composer of the perennial Christmas favorite, *O Holy Night*. Delibes worked as a parish organist at the Church of Saint-Pierre-de-Challot in Paris from 1865-1871. Though the majority of Delibes' works are for the stage (operas and ballets), he also composed many fine choral works, including the *Messe Brève* (Brief Mass) from which this *O Salutaris Hostia* is one of the movements. The Mass, composed in 1875, is set for a choir of two treble voices (specifically for children's choir) and organ.

Performance note

In the original score Delibes indicated that certain phrases were to be sung by solo voices followed by sections sung by the entire choir (*tutti*). The composer did this so as to provide a greater dynamic contrast within the movements of the Mass. Solos are designated in bars 5-12, 21-24 and 37-40, though in our *Pueri Cantores* festivals this *O Salutaris Hostia* will be sung entirely by the *tutti* choir.

Text:

The Latin text, *O salutaris Hostia* is a section of one of the Eucharistic hymns (*Verbum supernum prodiens*) written by St. Thomas Aquinas (1225-1274) for the Feast of Corpus Christi.

Pronunciation

O sa-lu-ta-ris Hostia Oh sah-loo-tah-rees Oh-stee-ah
 Quae cae-li pan-dis os-ti-um Kway chay-lee pah-n-dees oh-stee-oom.

Bella premunt hostilia Beh-lah pray-moont oh-stee-lee-ah
 Da robur fer auxilium Dah roh-boor fehr ow-kzee-lee-oom.

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

Literal translation

O salutaris Hostia
 O salvation's Victim

Quae cae-li pan-dis os-ti-um
 Who of heaven dost open the gate

Bella premunt hostilia
 Wars oppress (us) hostile (wars)

Da robur fer auxilium
 Give (us) strength bring (us) help.

Poetic Translation: O, saving Victim,
 Who expands the door of heaven,
 Hostile armies press,
 Give strength; bear aid.