

Richard Lambert

Hodie Christus natus est

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for reading only

Christmas motet
for unaccompanied mixed voices

The first performance was given by The Choir of Clare College,
directed by Graham Ross, on 23 January 2014

Text and translation

Hodie Christus natus est
hodie Salvator apparuit;
hodie in terra canunt Angeli,
laetantur Archangeli;
hodie exsultant justi, dicentes:
Gloria in excelsis Deo,
et in terra pax hominibus bonae voluntatis,
Alleluia!

Today Christ is born;
today the Saviour hath appeared;
today the Angels sing,
the Archangels rejoice;
today the righteous rejoice, saying:
Glory to God in the highest,
and on earth, peace, good will toward men.
Alleluia!

About the work

Composed in 2012, as the first of two Christmas motets, this short work for unaccompanied five-part choir comes from the liturgy of the vesper service for Christmas Day, and paraphrases St Luke's Gospel 2.11, 13-14.

Set in a Lydian mode (with prominent sharpened 4ths), the setting is both declamatory and antiphonal in style. The homophonic responses are choral fanfares, using tonal cluster chords to evoke the triumphant atmosphere. Continually changing time signatures, and contrapuntal echoes in stretto, reinforce the restless, excitable mood. Despite the short duration, the work rises from its initial F tonality, through a section in G, to conclude in an A Lydian mode. The final *Christus* is the most dissonant chord of all, yet encapsulates the overall air of rejoicing.

Duration: 2 minutes, 23 seconds

Also available by Richard Lambert

O magnum misterium
motet for unaccompanied mixed voices (SSATB)

Hodie Christus natus est

Words: Antiphon at Christmas Day Vespers,
a paraphrase of Luke 2.11,13-14

Music: RICHARD LAMBERT,
Op. 46 No. 1

Lively ♩ = 92

SOPRANO I
Ho-di - e, ho-di - e Chris-tus

SOPRANO II
Ho-di - e, ho-di - e Chris-tus

ALTO
Ho-di - e Chris-tus

TENOR
Ho-di - e Chris-tus na - tus est. Ho-di - e Chris-tus

BASS
Ho-di - e Chris-tus na - tus est. Ho-di - e Chris-tus

4

na - tus est. Ho-di - e Chris-tus na - tus est.

na - tus est. Ho-di - e Chris-tus na - tus est.

na - tus est. Ho-di - e Chris-tus na - tus est.

na - tus est. Ho-di - e Chris-tus na - tus est.

na - tus est. Ho-di - e Chris-tus na - tus est.

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10 *f*

Al-le-lu-ia, al - le-lu - ia! _____

f

Al-le-lu-ia, al - le-lu - ia! _____

f

Al-le-lu-ia, al - le-lu - ia! _____

f *f*

Al-le-lu-ia, al - le-lu - ia! Ho-di-e sal-va-tor ap - pa - ru-it, -

f

Al-le-lu-ia, al - le-lu - ia! _____ Ho-di-e sal-va-tor ap - pa - ru-it, -

17 *mp*

Ho-di - e, ho-di - e, ho-di, ho-di, ho-di - e, Chris-tus na - tus est.

mp

Ho-di - e, ho-di - e, ho-di, ho-di, ho-di - e, Chris-tus na - tus est.

mp

Chris-tus na - tus est.

f

Al - le -

f

Al - le -

21

p *mf*

Chris-tus na - tus est Ho - di - e in ter - ra ca - nunt

p *mf*

Chris-tus na - tus est Ho - di - e in ter - ra ca - nunt

p

Chris-tus na - tus est

-lu - ia, al - le, al - le - lu - ia! _____

-lu - ia, al - le, al - le - lu - ia! _____

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27

An - ge - li, lae - tan - tur Arch - an - ge - li; _____

An - ge - li, lae - tan - tur Arch - an - ge - li; _____

mf

lae - tan - tur Arch - an - ge - li; _____

f

Ho - di - e, ho - di - e, ho - di, ho - di, ho - di - e

f

Ho - di - e, ho - di - e, ho - di, ho - di, ho - di - e

32 *mf* *f*

Chris-tus na - tus est. Ho-di - e ex - ul - tant jus - ti, di -

mf *f*

Chris-tus na - tus est. Ho-di - e ex - ul - tant jus - ti, di -

mf *f*

Chris-tus na - tus est. Ho-di - e ex - ul - tant jus - ti, di -

f

Ho-di - e ex - ul - tant jus - ti,

f

Ho-di - e ex - ul - tant jus - ti,

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37 *ff* *mf*

-cen - tes, di - cen - tes:___ Glo-ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o,

ff *mf*

-cen - tes, di - cen - tes:___ Glo-ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o,

ff *mf*

-cen - tes, di - cen - tes:___ Glo-ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o,

ff

di - cen - tes:___ Glo-ri - a

ff

di - cen - tes:___ Glo-ri - a

41 *ff*

Glo - ri - a

ff *mf*

Glo - ri - a in ex cel - sis De - o

ff *mf*

Glo - ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o

mf *f*

Glo - ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o et in ter - ra pax ho - mi - ni - bus

f

Glo - ri - a et in ter - ra

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45 *f*

et in ter - - ra pax ho - mi - ni - bus___ bo - nae

f

et in ter - ra pax___ ho - mi - ni - bus___

f

et in ter - ra pax ho - mi - ni - bus bo - nae vo - lun - ta - tis___

f

bo - nae vo - lun - ta - tis Glo - ri - a Glo - ri - a, bo - nae vo - lun -

pax ho - mi - ni - bus bo - nae vo - lun - ta - tis bo - nae vo - lun - ta - tis,___

50

ff

vo - lun - ta - - tis__ Glo-ri - a Glo-ri - a__

ff

bo - nae vo - lun - ta - tis Glo-ri - a Glo-ri - a__

ff

Glo-ri - a, __ Glo-ri - a__ Glo-ri - a Glo-ri - a__

ff

- ta - tis bo - nae vo - lun - ta - tis Glo-ri - a__

ff

Glo-ri - a__ Glo-ri - a__ Glo-ri - a Glo-ri - a__

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54

f

Ho - di - e Chris - tus na - tus est. Ho - di - e, ho - di - e Chris - tus

f

Ho - di - e Chris - tus na - tus est. Ho - di - e, ho - di - e Chris - tus

f

Ho - di - e Chris - tus na - tus est. Ho - di - e__ Chris - tus

f

Ho - di - e Chris - tus na - tus est. Ho - di - e__ Chris - tus

f

Ho - di - e Chris - tus na - tus est. Ho - di - e__ Chris - tus