

Camille Saint-Saëns
(1835-1921)

Ave Verum
in E flat major

Edited by Anne-Marie Forbes

Ave Verum in E flat major

Camille Saint-Saëns

Moderato

SOPRANO *p*
A - ve__ ve - rum cor - pus na - tum de Ma - ri - a Vir - gi -

ALTO *p*
A - ve__ ve - rum cor - pus na - tum de Ma - ri - a Vir - gi -

TENOR *p*
A - ve ve - rum cor - pus na - tum de Ma - ri - a Vir - gi -

BASS *p*
A - ve__ ve - rum cor - pus na - tum de Ma - ri - a Vir - gi -

Organ
(for rehearsal only) *p*

8

p
ne.____ Ve - re__ pas - sum im - mo - la - tum in____ cru - ce pro ho-mi -

p
ne.____ Ve - re__ pas - sum im - mo - la - tum in cru - ce pro ho-mi -

p
ne. Ve - re pas - sum im - mo - la - tum in cru - ce pro ho-mi -

p
ne.____ Ve - re__ pas - sum im - mo - la - tum in____ cru - ce pro ho-mi -

16

cresc. *f*

ne. Cu - jus la - tus per - fo - ra - tum un - da flu - xit cum san - gui -

cresc. *f*

ne. Cu - jus la - tus per - fo - ra - tum un - da flu - xit cum san - gui -

cresc. *f*

ne. Cu - jus la - tus per - fo - ra - tum un - da flu - xit cum san - gui -

cresc. *f*

ne. Cu - jus la - tus per - fo - ra - tum un - da flu - xit cum san - gui -

24

p

ne. Es - to no - bis prae - gus - ta - tum in mor - tis ex - a - mi - ne.

p

ne. Es - to no - bis prae - gus - ta - tum in mor - tis ex - a - mi - ne.

p

ne. Es - to no - bis prae - gus - ta - tum in mor - tis ex - a - mi - ne.

p

ne. Es - to no - bis prae - gus - ta - tum in mor - tis ex - a - mi - ne.

33

cresc. *f* *dim.*

Es - to no - bis prae - gus - ta - tum in mor - - tis, mor - -

cresc. *f* *dim.*

Es - to no - bis prae - gus - ta - tum in mor - - - - - tis

cresc. *f* *dim.*

Es - to no - bis prae - gus - ta - tum in mor - - tis, mor - -

cresc. *f* *dim.*

Es - to no - bis prae - gus - ta - tum in mor - - - - - tis ex -

cresc. *f* *dim.*

41

p *pp*

- tis ex - a - mi - ne. A - - - - - men.

p *pp*

ex - a - mi - ne. A - - - - - men.

p *pp*

- tis ex - a - mi - ne. A - - - - - men.

p *pp*

a - - - - - mi - ne. A - - - - - men.

p *pp*

The sacred compositions of Camille Saint-Saëns include six settings of the *Ave Verum* text. This *Ave Verum* in E flat major for SATB choir was published in 1865, the same year as was published another setting that he had written for soprano, alto and organ. These two works were both composed during the four years Saint-Saëns was teaching at the École Niedermeyer, an institution that had been founded in 1853 with the deliberate aim of raising the standard of church music. Students were given a strong foundation in Gregorian chant and sixteenth-century counterpoint, and these influences are reflected in Saint-Saëns' own church compositions as well as the works of his famous student and life-long friend, Gabriel Fauré. Saint-Saëns also composed an *Ave Verum* in D major for female voices in four parts with horn obbligato, as well as three solo settings; one for alto and two for baritone.

Ave Verum is a Eucharistic hymn dating from the fourteenth century. Its text is centred on the real presence of the Body of Christ in the Eucharist and points to this sacrament as offering to the faithful in the trials of death a foretaste of the heavenly banquet to come. In a liturgical context an *Ave Verum* setting may be sung at the Eucharist or at the Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament and is appropriate to be sung for the Feast of Corpus Christi.

Translation

Hail True Body, born of the Virgin, who, having suffered was sacrificed on the cross for humankind; from whose pierced side flowed water and blood. For us let it be a foretaste in the trial of death.

Anne-Marie Forbes 2012