

Emendemus in Melius

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Dec. 2014
revised March 2015

dedicated to musica intima

Traditional text

Emendemus in melius quae ignoranter peccavimus, ne subito praeoccupati die mortis quaeramus spatium poenitentiae et invenire non possimus.	<i>Let us amend what we have through ignorance transgressed, lest, should the day of death suddenly come, we seek time for repentance and cannot find it.</i>
Attende, Domine, et miserere, quia peccavimus tibi.	<i>Listen, Lord, and have mercy, for we have sinned against Thee.</i>
Adjuva nos, Deus salutaris noster, et propter honorem nominis tui libera nos.	<i>Help us, God of our salvation, and for the glory of Thy name deliver us.</i>

Performance Notes:

1. The form follows the above division of text. The setting of the first word, *Emendemus*, is a word-painting of anxious and remorseful individuals coming together into one congregation; the ensuing section is a thoughtful and earnest reflection on transgression.
2. The second section begins with a similar but more impassioned build-up on *Attende*, leading to a direct plea for mercy, but then cringing to a shamefaced pianissimo.
3. The third section, with its imitative entrances on *Adjuva nos*, brings a new and personal urgency to the prayer in the lower three voices, while the ringing soprano cantus firmus should soar above. Lower voices should bring out their entrances.
4. The final section (*et propter...*) replaces the urgent pleading in ATB with stoicism, a sense that after having amended transgressions with worldly action, judgment is still up to God; the sopranos instead take up the desperate plea with *libera nos*. The conflicting angst of apprehension and hope isn't resolved even at the final *libera nos*, leaving us waiting until the very last measure of *Amen* for redemption.

Emendemus in Melius

Andante ♩ = 70

pp *p*

Soprano 1
E - men - de - mus E - men - de - mus

pp *mp*

Soprano 2
E - men - de - mus E - men - de - mus

pp *p* *mp*

Alto 1
E - men - de - mus E - men - de - mus E - men - de - mus

pp *p*

Alto 2
E - men - de - mus E - men - de - mus

p *mp*

Tenor
E men - de - mus E - men - de - mus

Bass

7 unison *pp* *mf* *p*

S
in me - li - us quae ig - no - ran -

unison *pp* *mf* *p*

A
in me - li - us quae ig - no - ran -

pp *mf* *p*

T
in me - li - us quae ig - no - ran

mf *p*

B
in me - li - us quae ig - no - ran -

12

S *f*
- ter — ig - no - ran - ter — pec - ca - vi - mus,

A *f*
- ter ig - no - ran - ter — pe - ca - vi - mus,

T *f*
8 ter ig - no - ran - ter pec - ca - vi - mus,

B *f*
- ter ig - no - ran - ter pec - ca - vi - mus,

18

S *pp* *p* *p*
ne su - bi - to prae - oc - cu - pa - ti di - e mor - tis quae - ra - mus

A *pp* *mp* *p*
ne su - bi - to prae - oc - cu - pa - ti di - e mor - tis quae - ra - mus

T *pp* *mp* *p*
8 ne su - bi - to prae - oc - cu - pa - ti di - e mor - tis quae - ra - mus

B *p* *mp*
prae - oc - cu - pa - ti di - e mor - tis

Emendemus in Melius

24

S spa-ti-um poe - ni - ten - ti - ae _____ non pos-si - mus.

A spa-ti-um *pp* et _____ non pos-si - mus.

T *pp* spa-ti-um *pp* et in - ve - ni - re _____ non pos-si - mus.

B *pp* et in - ve - ni - re _____ non pos-si - mus.

31

S divisi *p* At - ten - de _____ *mp* at - ten - de

S divisi *p* At - ten - de _____ *mp* at - ten -

A divisi *p* At - ten - de _____ *mp* at - ten - de at - ten - de

A divisi *p* At - ten - de _____ *mp* at - ten - de

T *p* At - ten - de _____ *mp* at - ten -

B *p* At - ten - de _____ at - ten - de

36

mf *f* , subito *p*

S at - ten - de Do - mi - ne, et

mf *f* , subito *p*

S - de at - ten - de Do - mi - ne, et

mf *f* , subito *p*

A at - ten - de Do - mi - ne, et

mf *f* , subito *p*

A at - ten - de Do - mi - ne, et

mf *f* , subito *p*

T - de at - ten - de Do - mi - ne, et

mf *f* , subito *p*

B at - ten - de Do - mi - ne, et

41

unison *pp* rit.

S mi - se - re - re qui - a pec - ca - vi - mus ti - bi.

unison *pp*

A mi - se - re - re qui - a pec - ca - vi - mus ti - bi.

pp *mp*

T mi - se - re - re qui - a pec - ca - vi - mus ti - bi. Ad -

pp

B mi - se - re - re qui - a pec - ca - vi - mus ti - bi.

A little faster, with urgency ♩ = 80

48

S *mf* De - us

A *mp* Ad - ju - va _____ nos *cresc. poco a poco* ad - ju - va _____ nos ad -

T *cresc. poco a poco* - ju - va _____ nos ad - ju - va _____ nos ad - ju - va _____

B *mp* Ad - ju - va _____ nos *cresc. poco a poco* ad - ju - va nos

53

S *f* sa - lu - ta - ris

A - ju - va _____ nos ad - ju - va _____ nos ad - ju - va _____

T nos ad - ju - va _____ nos ad - ju - va _____ nos

B ad - ju - va nos ad - ju - va nos ad -

A tempo ♩ = 70

58

S
nos - ter,

A
nos ad - ju - va — nos *mf* et prop - ter ho - no - rem no-mi-nis tu -

T
ad - ju - va nos ad - ju - va nos *mf* et prop - ter ho - no - rem

B
- ju - va — nos ad - ju - va — nos *mf* et prop - ter ho - no - rem no-mi-nis

64

S
f li - be - ra

A
- i et prop - ter ho - no - rem no - mi - nis tu - i *f* et prop - ter

T
no - mi - nis tu - i et prop - ter ho - no - rem no - mi - nis tu -

B
tu - i et prop - ter ho - no - rem no - mi - nis tu - i

Emendemus in Melius

69

S *ff* , *mp*
li - be - ra nos.

A *mp*
ho - no - rem no - mi - nis tu - i no - mi - nis tu - i

T *f* *mp*
- i et prop - ter ho - no - rem no - mi - nis tu - i

B *f* *mp*
et prop - ter ho - no - rem no - mi - nis tu - i

74

S *p*
A - men. _____

A *p*
li - be - ra nos. _____ A - - - - men.

T *p*
li - be - ra nos. A - - - - men. _____

B *p*
li - be - ra nos. _____ A - - - - men. _____