

Of the Father's Love Begotten

Text: Aurelius Clemens Prudentius
Translation: John Mason Neale, Henry Williams Baker

Melody: "Divinum mysterium" (plainchant)
Harmonization: Benjamin J. Shute

A note on the harmonizations:

Most hymnals today present this plainchant-derived hymn with a 19th/20th-century harmonization that in many cases is best suited to having the melody alone sung and the lower voices supplied by an organ. The style of harmonization given here, by contrast, is intended to recall the flavour of chant and chorale harmonizations from around the turn of the 17th century, allowing for a more natural SATB rendering, while preserving the melody and text familiar to modern congregations.

Although notated in C according to modal convention, the setting may be transposed to wherever it is comfortable to sing (in other words, 'C' may be sung at whatever frequency is agreeable).

I have included two harmonizations, the first without imitation, the second with.

-BJS

Of the Father's Love Begotten

Text: M. A. C. Prudentius
trans. J. M. Neale, H. W. Baker

Melody: "Divinum mysterium"
Harmonization: Benjamin Shute

S
A
T
B

Of the Fa ther's love be-got - ten ere the worlds be gan_ to be, he is Al pha and O me - ga, he the Source, the

S
A
T
B

End - ing he, of the things that are, that have_____been, and that future years shall see, ev-er more and

S
A
T
B

ev - er - more!

2. O that birth forever blessèd, when the Virgin, full of grace,
by the Holy Ghost conceiving, bore the Savior of our race;
and the babe, the world's Redeemer, first revealed his sacred face,
evermore and evermore!
3. This is he whom heav'n-taught singers sang of old with one accord,
whom the Scriptures of the prophets promised in their faithful word;
now he shines, the long expected; let creation praise its Lord,
evermore and evermore!
4. O ye heights of heav'n, adore him; angel hosts, his praises sing:
all dominions, bow before him and extol our God and King;
let no tongue on earth be silent, ev'ry voice in concert ring,
evermore and evermore!
5. Christ, to thee, with God the Father, and, O Holy Ghost, to thee,
hymn and chant and high thanksgiving and unwearied praises be,
honor, glory, and dominion and eternal victory,
evermore and evermore!

Alternate harmonization (with imitation)

S
A

Of the Fa-ther's love be got - ten ere the worlds be gan - to be, he is Al-pha and O-me - ga, he the Source, the

T
B

Detailed description: This is the first system of an alternate harmonization for Soprano (S) and Alto (A) voices. The music is written on a grand staff with a treble clef for the Soprano and a bass clef for the Alto. The lyrics are: "Of the Fa-ther's love be got - ten ere the worlds be gan - to be, he is Al-pha and O-me - ga, he the Source, the". The notes are mostly quarter and eighth notes, with some rests. There are fermatas over the final notes of each line.

S
A

End - ing he, of the things that are, that have _____ been, and that fu-ture years shall see, ev-er more and

T
B

Detailed description: This is the second system of the alternate harmonization. The lyrics are: "End - ing he, of the things that are, that have _____ been, and that fu-ture years shall see, ev-er more and". The music continues with similar rhythmic patterns and includes a fermata at the end.

S
A

ev - er - more! _____

T
B

Detailed description: This is the third system of the alternate harmonization. The lyrics are: "ev - er - more! _____". The music concludes with a final chord and a fermata.

2. O that birth forever blessèd, when the Virgin, full of grace,
by the Holy Ghost conceiving, bore the Savior of our race;
and the babe, the world's Redeemer, first revealed his sacred face,
evermore and evermore!
3. This is he whom heav'n-taught singers sang of old with one accord,
whom the Scriptures of the prophets promised in their faithful word;
now he shines, the long expected; let creation praise its Lord,
evermore and evermore!
4. O ye heights of heav'n, adore him; angel hosts, his praises sing:
all dominions, bow before him and extol our God and King;
let no tongue on earth be silent, ev'ry voice in concert ring,
evermore and evermore!
5. Christ, to thee, with God the Father, and, O Holy Ghost, to thee,
hymn and chant and high thanksgiving and unwearied praises be,
honor, glory, and dominion and eternal victory,
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