

O Sanctissima

for my mother, Victorina "Betty" Canedo

English translation of *O Sanctissima*
by Harry Hagan, OSB

O DU FRÖHLICHE, 55 7 D
Hymn arrangement, Choral arrangement
and Magnificat by Ken Canedo

INTRO

C Em7 Fmaj7 Dm7 Fadd9/G G

HYMN VERSES 1, 2

1. O San - ctis - si - ma, Ho - ly Queen of Love, Dear - est
2. O most beau - ti - ful, And most mer - ci - ful, Gate of

C F/C C F/C C G/B

1. Vir - gin and Moth - er. Blest by ev - 'ry na - tion,
2. Heav - en, we hail you. Star of our sal - va - tion,

Am G/B C G/D D G Dm/G G7

1. Ev - 'ry gen - er - a - tion: } O - ra, o - ra pro
2. Crown of all cre - a - tion: }

C G/B Am Em7 Fmaj7 Dm7

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1-2. no - bis!

1. My
4. (He has)

1 to Hymn Vs. 2 2

C/G G7 C G/C Cmaj7 C

MAGNIFICAT

1. soul pro-claims the great-ness of the Lord. My
4. come to help his ser-vant, Is-ra-el. He re -

F G/F Fmaj7 C G/B Am7 C/G

1. spir-it finds joy in God my Sav-ior.
4. mem-bers his prom-is-es to A-bra-ham.

1 to Hymn Vs. 3/
Magnificat Vs. 2 2 to Hymn Vs. 5

Fmaj7 Dm7 F/G G F/G G G

HYMN VERSES 3, 4

Melody

3. Ma - ry, Mys - tic Rose, — Font that o - ver-flows,
4. Ma - ry, plead for us; — In - ter - cede for us.

(MAGNIFICAT)

Descant

2. God looks with fav - or on — his low - ly ser - vant,
3. He has shown pow - er, he has cast down the might - y.

C F/C C F/C C

3. Seat of Wis - dom, we greet — you. Moth - er of our
4. Come and lead us to Je - sus. Moth - er in our

2. and from this day all will call me — blest. Great things he's
3. He has lift - ed the low - ly. He feeds the

G/B Am G/B C G/D D G

3. Sav - ior, Full of grace and fa - vor: } O - ra, —
 4. sad - ness, Moth - er in our glad - ness: }

2. done for me. His name is ho - ly. } Mer - cy,
 3. hun - gry. The rich go emp - ty. }

Dm/G G7 C G/B Am Em7

1 to Hymn Vs. 4/
Magnificat Vs. 3 2 D.S. to
Magnificat Vs. 4

3-4. o - ra pro no - bis! 4. He has

1 to Hymn Vs. 4/
Magnificat Vs. 3 2 D.S. to
Magnificat Vs. 4

2-3. mer - cy on God's peo - ple.

Fmaj7 Dm7 C/G G C G/C 1 Cmaj7 to Hymn Vs. 4/
Magnificat Vs. 3 2 C D.S. to
Magnificat Vs. 4

HYMN VERSE 5

rall. *p delicately*

5. O San - ctis - si - ma, Ho - ly

A D G/D D G/D

rall. *p delicately*

5. Queen of Love, Dear - est Vir - gin and Moth - er.

D A/C# Bm A/C# D A/E E A

5. Blest by ev - 'ry na - tion, Ev - 'ry gen - er - a - tion:

Em/A A7 D A/C#

rit.

5. O - ra, o - ra pro no - bis!

Bm F#m7 Gmaj7 Em7 D/A A D

rit.

O Sanctissima

for my mother, Victorina "Betty" Canedo

O DU FRÖHLICHE
Arrangement by Ken Canedo

FLUTE/OBOE

INTRO

mf

HYMN VERSE 1

17

HYMN VERSE 2

mp

MAGNIFICAT VERSES 1, 4

mf

1 to Hymn Vs. 3

2 to Hymn Vs. 5

HYMN VERSE 3

17

HYMN VERSE 4

17

HYMN VERSE 5

2

p

rit.

O Sanctissima

for my mother, Victorina "Betty" Canedo
(Guitar/Vocal)

English translation of *O Sanctissima*
by Harry Hagan, OSB

O DU FRÖHLICHE, 55 7 D
Hymn arrangement, Choral arrangement
and Magnificat by Ken Canedo

INTRO

(Kbd)

HYMN VERSES 1, 2

1. O San - ctis - si - ma, Ho - ly Queen of Love,
2. O most beau - ti - ful, And most mer - ci - ful,

1. Dear - est Vir - gin and Moth - er. Blest by ev - 'ry
2. Gate of Heav - en, we hail you. Star of our sal -

1. na - tion, Ev - 'ry gen - er - a - tion: } O - ra, _____
2. va - tion, Crown of all cre - a - tion: }

o - ra pro no - bis! _____

1. My
4. (He has)

MAGNIFICAT

1. soul pro-claims the great - ness of the Lord. _____ My _____
4. come to help his ser - vant, Is - ra - el. _____ He re -

1. spir - it finds joy in God my Sav - ior. _____
4. mem - bers his prom - is - es to A - bra - ham. _____

4. _____

HYMN VERSE 5

Melody *rall.* *p* *delicately* G/D D G/D

5. O San - ctís - si - ma, Ho - ly

Harmony

D A/C# Bm A/C# D A/E E A

5. Queen of Love, Dear - est Vir - gin and Moth - er.

Em/A A7 D A/C#

5. Blest by ev - 'ry na - tion, Ev - 'ry gen - er - a - tion:

Bm F#m7 Gmaj7 Em7 D/A A D *rit.*

5. O - ra, o - ra pro no - bis!

Performance Notes

“O Sanctissima” is a beloved Marian hymn with Sicilian origins. First published in 1794, it is also identified as a German hymn tune, O DU FRÖHLICHE. A childhood favorite of mine, I had lamented that today’s children are not familiar with this classic hymn. This new arrangement will hopefully unite all generations in song as they honor Mary.

The “roadmap” of this arrangement may be a little confusing, but the concept is very simple: the Magnificat is sung as a counter-harmony on top of Verses 3 and 4. This harmony is connected to the verses by a bridge that is sung after Verse 2 and before Verse 5. This chart will explain it better (please note the designation of “Hymn Verses” and “Magnificat Verses.”):

Hymn Verses 1 and 2: Assembly

Magnificat Verse 1 (bridge): Cantor or Choir

Hymn Verse 3: Assembly, with Cantor or Choir singing Magnificat Verse 2 on top

Hymn Verse 4: Assembly, with Cantor or Choir singing Magnificat Verse 3 on top

Magnificat Verse 4 (bridge): Cantor or Choir

Hymn Verse 5: Assembly, with Choir harmony

Although the assembly could certainly sing the bridges (Magnificat Verses 1 and 4), it will probably be less confusing if they just sing the Hymn Verses. The recording from *Never Too Young* will give a clear picture of this arrangement.

This hymn should be sung from the heart with great devotion. Dynamics are at the discretion of the choir director; I suggest that Verse 5 be sung almost *pianissimo*. The pianist would do well to give the song a light touch, with special attention to Verse 5’s dynamic marking: *delicately*.

I would like to give special thanks to Fr. Harry Hagan, OSB, for his beautiful translation of the text. *Ad Jesum per Mariam*.

—Ken Canedo

Assembly Edition

O SANCTISSIMA

O DU FRÖHLICHE
Magnificat by Ken Canedo

Hymn



- 1, 5. O San - ctis - si - ma, Ho - ly Queen of Love,
2. O most beau - ti - ful, And most mer - ci - ful,
3. Ma - ry, Mys - tic Rose, Font that o - ver-flows,
4. Ma - ry, plead for us; In - ter - cede for us.



- 1, 5. Dear - est Vir - gin and Moth - er.
2. Gate of Heav - en, we hail you.
3. Seat of Wis - dom, we greet you.
4. Come and lead us to Je - sus.



- 1, 5. Blest by ev - 'ry na - tion, Ev - 'ry gen - er - a - tion:
2. Star of our sal - va - tion, Crown of all cre - a - tion:
3. Moth - er of our Sav - ior, Full of grace and fa - vor:
4. Moth - er in our sad - ness, Moth - er in our glad - ness:

1, 3, Final



- 1-5. O - ra, o - ra pro no - bis!

2, 4 Magnificat



1. My soul pro-claims the great-ness of the Lord. My —
4. He has come to help his ser - vant, Is - ra - el. He re -

1 to Hymn
Vs. 3

2 to Hymn Vs. 5
2



1. spir - it finds joy in God my Sav - ior.
4. mem - bers his prom - is - es to A - bra - ham.

Magnificat Verses 2, 3: sung by the choir over Hymn Verses 3, 4

2. God looks with favor on his lowly servant,
and from this day all will call me blest.
Great things he's done for me.
His name is holy.
Mercy, mercy on God's people.
3. He has shown power, he has cast down the mighty.
He has lifted the lowly.
He feeds the hungry.
The rich go empty.
Mercy, mercy on God's people.

Text: Hymn: 55 7 D; English tr. of *O Sanctissima* by Harry Hagan, OSB, © 2003, St. Meinrad Archabbey.

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