

STELLA CELI EXTIRPAVIT

Seán Doherty

2020

SATB a cappella

TEXT

Stella celi extirpavit
que lactavit Dominum
mortis pestem, quam plantavit
primus parens hominum.
Ipsa stella nunc dignetur
sydera compescere;
quorum bella plebem cedunt
dire mortis ulcere.
O gloriosa stella maris,
a peste succurre nobis.
Audi nos: nam Filius tuus
nihil negans te honorat.
Salva nos, Jesu, pro quibus
virgo mater te orat.

*Star of Heaven,
who nourished the Lord
and rooted up the plague of death which our
first parents planted;
may that star now deign
to hold in check the constellations whose
strife brings the people
the ulcers of a terrible death.
O glorious star of the sea,
save us from the plague.
Hear us: for your Son
who honours you denies you nothing.
Jesus, save us, for whom
the Virgin Mother prays to you.*

Anon. 15th Century

PROGRAMME NOTE

The Marian hymn 'Stella celi extirpavit' is one of the few musical sources that is unequivocally phrased as a plea for deliverance from the plague. The text is widely recorded in late medieval sources, including in polyphonic settings in the Old Hall Manuscript and the Eton Choirbook. The best medical thinking at the time attributed the plague to the configuration of the heavens, particularly to the conjunction of Jupiter, Saturn, and Mars a few years before the Black Death. This hymn, accordingly, calls upon Mary in her guise as the *stella maris*, star of the sea, to restrain these constellations whose strife 'brings the people the ulcers of a terrible death'. Though scientific understanding has advanced in the intervening centuries, it is with the same urgency and anguish that we call for deliverance from the new pestilence of COVID-19.

Performance Time: c. 4 mins

Commissioned by Choir & Organ for Graham Ross and the Choir of Clare College, Cambridge

Stella celi extirpavit

in time of COVID-19

Anon. 15th Century

SEÁN DOHERTY (b. 1987)

Adagio ♩ = 60

SOPRANO *ff* *pp* *mp*
Au - di nos, Sal - va - nos. Stel - la ce - li ex - tir -

ALTO *ff* *pp* *mp*
Au - di nos, Sal - va nos. Stel - la ce - li ex - tir -

TENOR *ff* *pp* *mp*
Au - di nos, Sal - va nos. Stel - la ce - li ex - tir -

BASS *ff* *pp* *mp*
Au - di nos, Sal - va nos. Stel - la ce - li ex - tir -

for rehearsal only
ff *pp* *mp*

8 *f*

pa - vit que lac - ta - vit Do - mi - num mor - tis pe - stem, quam plan - ta - vit pri - mus pa - rens

mf *f*
pa - vit Do - mi - num mor - tis pe - stem, quam plan - ta - vit

mf *f*
pa - vit Do - mi - num mor - tis pe - stem, quam plan - ta - vit

mf *f*
pa - vit Do - mi - num mor - tis pe - stem, quam plan - ta - vit

cresc. *f*

14

ff *p* *mf*

ho-mi-num. Au-di nos, Sal - va nos. stel - la nunc dig -

ff *p* *mf*

ho-mi-num. Au - di nos, Sal - va nos. stel - la nunc dig -

ff *p* *mf*

ho-mi-num. Au - di nos, Sal - va nos. Ip-sa stel - la nunc dig -

ff *p* *mf*

ho-mi-num. Au - di nos, Sal - va nos. Ip-sa stel - la nunc dig -

21

f

ne-tur com-pe-sce-re; quo - rum bel - la ple - bem ce-dunt di-re mor-tis ul - ce - re.

f

ne-tur com-pe-sce-re; quo - rum bel - la ple - bem ce-dunt di-re mor-tis ul - ce - re.

f

-ne - tur sy-de-ra com - pe - sce - re; quo - rum bel - la ple - bem ce - dunt di - re mor - tis ul - ce - re.

f

-ne - tur sy - de - ra com - pe - sce - re; quo - rum bel - la ple - bem ce - dunt di - re mor - tis ul - ce - re.

28 *ff* *mp* *mf dolce*

Au - di nos, Sal - va nos, O glo - ri - o - sa stel - la ma - ris, Au - di

ff *mp* *mf*

Au - di nos, Sal - va nos. Au - di nos,

ff *mp* *mf*

Au - di nos, Sal - va nos. Au - di nos, Sal -

ff *mp* *mf*

Au - di nos, Sal - va nos. Au - di nos, Sal - va -

35 *f* *ff*

nos, a pe - ste suc - cur - re no - bis. Sal - va nos, Au - di nos: nam

f *ff*

Sal - va nos, Au - di nos, Sal - va nos, Au - di nos: -

f *ff*

- va nos, Au - di nos, Sal - va nos, Au - di nos: -

f *ff*

nos, Au - di nos, Sal - va nos, Au - di nos: Au - di

42

fi - li - us tu - us ni - hil ne - gans te ho - no - rat. Sal - va_ nos, Je - su, pro qui - bus

Au - di nos, Sal - va_ nos, Sal - va nos, Sal -

Au - di nos, Sal - va_ nos, Sal - va nos, Sal - va_

nos, Sal - va_ nos, Sal - va nos, Sal - va_ nos,

vir - go ma - ter te o - rat. Au - di nos, Sal - va_ nos.

va_ nos, *p sub.* Sal - va nos, Au - di nos, *pp* Sal - va nos.

nos, *p sub.* Sal - va nos, Au - di nos, *pp* Sal - va nos.

Sal - va nos, *p sub.* Au - di nos, *pp* Sal - va nos.

48

vir - go ma - ter te o - rat. Au - di nos, Sal - va_ nos.

va_ nos, *p sub.* Sal - va nos, Au - di nos, *pp* Sal - va nos.

nos, *p sub.* Sal - va nos, Au - di nos, *pp* Sal - va nos.

Sal - va nos, *p sub.* Au - di nos, *pp* Sal - va nos.