

# Ave Regina caelorum

for SSAATTBB

Chris Williams

Written for VOCES8,  
With thanks to JAM on the Marsh.

As someone without a conventional religious background, my first interest in the Marion antiphons comes from two aspects of the texts. First, they end Compline (or 'Night Prayer'), and as such are the 'end of the end' of day, and secondly, they are seasonal, with '*Ave regina caelorum*' being sung after Purification until Easter Vigil. In marking the time of day and the season, it seems to me a beautiful kind of musical clock and calendar imbued with love and devotion.

The time of day has particular resonance for me in this piece. I hear *Ave regina caelorum* as evoking the last light of day - the golden hour - as it appears, glistens intensely, and then fades. It is a combination of the darker time of day and the intensity of colour sent out by the setting sun in its final moments that I find a particularly apt and powerful.

In addition to the antiphon, at the very end of the piece, I have inserted a fragment of a very different, though thematically related, text, by G.K.Chesterton (1874-1936). For me, it serves to suddenly bring the latin, and so the antiquated Marion adoration, to life in an immediate and palpable way, before the final farewell. As at a few points in the piece, this is a final glimmer of intensity before the close of day.

Ave, Regina caelorum,  
Ave, Domina Angelorum:  
Salve, radix, salve, porta  
Ex qua mundo lux est orta:

Gaude, Virgo gloriosa,  
Super omnes speciosa...

[Marion antiphon]

*Our Lady went into a strange country  
And they crowned her for a queen...*

*And they were broken down under unbearable beauty  
As we have been.*

-G.K.Chesterton [Regina Angelorum]

Vale, o valde decora,  
Et pro nobis Christum exora.

[Marion antiphon]

# Ave Regina caelorum

Marion Antiphon  
G.K. Chesterton

Chris Williams

**Solo** **mp** *gentle, loving*

**S.** ♭4 62

**A.** ♭4 *mf* *gentle, loving* **mp** **p** **p**

**T.** ♭4

**B.** ♭4

A - ve, Re - gi - na cae - lo - rum, A -

**S.1** ♭4 5 **p**

Do - mi-na An-ge - lo - rum: A - ve, *gentle, loving* **p** **p** **mp**

**S.2** ♭4

A - ve, **p** **p** **mp**

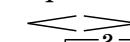
**A.** ♭4 Do - mi-na An-ge - lo - rum: A - ve, Re -

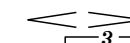
**T.** ♭4

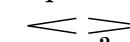
**B.** ♭4

2 9 **p** (solo) **A** *urgent whisper - magical*

S. cae - lo - rum, **pp**  A - ve, Re-gi-na

A. **p** **pp**  *urgent whisper - magical*  
gi - na cae - lo - rum, A - ve, Re-gi-na

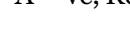
T. **pp**  *urgent whisper - magical*  
A - ve, Re-gi-na

B. **pp**  *urgent whisper - magical*  
A - ve, Re-gi-na

13 **pp**  **mp** **p** **pp** *rushed\**  
S. A - ve, Re-gi-na A - ve, Re-gi-na Re-gi-na, A - ve, Re-gi-na cae-lo -

A.1 **pp**  **mp** **p** **pp** *rushed\**  
A - ve, Re-gi-na A - ve, Re-gi-na Re-gi-na, A - ve, Re-gi-na cae-lo -

T. **pp**  **mp** **p** **pp** *rushed\**  
A - ve, Re-gi-na A - ve, Re-gi-na Re-gi-na, A - ve, Re-gi-na cae-lo -

B. **pp**  **mp** **p** **pp** *rushed\**  
A - ve, Re-gi-na A - ve, Re-gi-na Re-gi-na, A - ve, Re-gi-na cae-lo -

\* this triplet rest may be almost skipped - treated as a snatched breath - in a rush to the next downbeat

**B**

16

S.1 *mf* rum, *mp* A - - - ve 3

S.2 *mf* *f* rum, A-ve, Re-gi - na, *mp* *mf* Re-gi - na A-ve, Re-gi-na cae-lo-rum,

A. *mf* *f* 3 rum, A-ve, Re-gi - na, *mp* *mf* Re-gi - na A-ve, Re-gi-na cae-lo-rum,

T. *mf* *f* 8 rum, A-ve, Re-gi-na Re-gi-na A-ve, Re-gi-na cae-lo-rum,

B. *mf* *f* rum, A-ve Re-gi-na Re-gi-na Do-mi-na



*intense*

19 S. *mf* A - - - ve *p* A - ve Re - gi - na Re-gi-na cae-lo-rum

A. *mf* A - - - ve *p* A - ve Re - gi - na,

T. *mf* A - - - ve, Re - gi - na,

B. *mf* solo *mf* A - - - ve, Re - gi - na *p* A-ve, Re- gi - na

Do-mi-na An-ge-lo-rum: A - ve, Re - gi - na

**C***pp delicato*

21

S. *f*, Do mi na An-ge-lo - rum: Do mi na  
A - ve, Re gi na cae lo-rum, Do mi na An-ge - lo - rum:  
*f*, *pp delicato*  
A. A - ve, Re-gi-na cae lo-rum, Do mi na An-ge lo - rum: Do mi na  
*f*, *pp delicato*  
T. A-ve, Re gi - na cae-lo-rum, Do mi na An-ge-lo - rum:  
*f*, *pp delicato*  
B. A-ve, Re gi - na Do mi na An-ge lo - rum:

==

23

S. *pp* Do-mi-na An-ge-lo - rum:  
*mp* A - - - ve A -  
A. *p* Do-mi-na An-ge-lo - rum: A-ve Re-gi-na A -  
*mp*  
T. *p* An-ge - lo - rum: A - - - ve A -  
*mp*  
B. *p* An-ge - lo - rum: A-ve, Re-gi - na A - ve

D

poco meno mosso

5

26

S. *p* -ve

A. *p* *p calm* A - ve, A - ve

T. *p* *p calm* A - ve, A - ve

B. *mp* *p* *mp* Do-mi-na\_ An-ge-lo-rum: *p calm* A - ve, A - ve

*mp* *p* *mp* Do-mi-na\_ A - ve, A - ve

Do-mi-na\_

==

30

S.1 *p* *mp*, Do - mi - na\_ An - ge - lo -

S.2 *p* *mp*, Do - mi - na\_ An - ge - lor -

A. Do - mi - na\_ A - ve A - ve A - ve

T. Do - mi - na\_ A - ve A - ve A - ve

B. Do - mi - na\_ A - ve A - ve A - ve

6 34

**E**

S.1 rum: **p** Sal - ve, \_\_ sal -

S.2 - rum: Sal - ve \_\_ ra - dix, sal -

A.1 **p** Sal - ve \_\_ ra - dix, sal -

A.2 Do - mi - na **p** Sal - ve \_\_

T. Do - mi - na Sal - ve \_\_ Sal - ve

B. Do - mi - na ra - dix, Sal -

≡

37

S.1 ve, \_\_ ra - dix, Sal - ve, \_\_ sal - ve \_\_

S.2 - ve, Sal - ve, \_\_ sal - ve \_\_ por - ta

A.1 - ve Sal - ve \_\_ sal - ve \_\_

A.2 Sal - ve \_\_ sal - ve \_\_ por - ta

T. Sal - ve \_\_ sal - ve \_\_

B. - ve por - ta

40 *mp* *mf* 7

S.1 por - ta Sal - ve, sal - ve sal - ve, por - ta

S.2 por - ta A - ve Sal - ve, sal - ve, por - ta

A. A - ve, Re - gi-na cae - lo - rum,

T. 8 A - ve, Re - gi-na cae - lo - rum, Sal - ve

B.

sal - ve *p* *mf* *p*

S. sal - ve, por - ta Ex qua mun-do lux est or - ta:

A. sal - ve por - ta Ex qua mun-do lux est or - ta:

T. 8 sal - ve, sal - ve Ex qua mun-do lux est or - ta:

B. Ex qua mun-do lux est or - ta:

8

44

S. lux est or - ta: **F** *mp* solo Va - - - le

A. lux est or - ta: *mp* **f** Gau - de, Vir<sup>3</sup> - go glo - ri - o - sa,

T. lux est or - ta: *mp* **f** Gau - de, glo - ri - o - sa,

B. lux est or - ta: *mp* **f** Vir - go glo - ri - o - sa,

==

46

S. spe-ci - o - sa, glo - ri - o - sa, **G** *mp* **f** *mp* **f** tutti A - ve, Re - gi - na

A. Su - per - spe-ci - o - sa, glo - ri - o - sa, *mp* **f** *mp* **f** tutti A - ve, Re - gi - na om - nes

T. Su - per - spe-ci - o - sa, glo - ri - o - sa, *mp* **f** *mp* **f** tutti A - ve, Re - gi - na

B. om - nes spe-ci - o - sa, glo - ri - o - sa, *mp* **f** *mp* **f** tutti A - ve, Re - gi - na

9

48

S. *p* — *f* *mf* *> mp*, *p*  
 A - ve, Re - gi - na cae - lo - rum, A - ve, Do - mi - na An - ge - lo -

A. *p* — *f* *mf* *> mp*, *p*  
 A - ve, Re - gi - na cae - lo - rum, A - ve, Do - mi - na An - ge - lo -

T. *p* — *f* *mf* *> mp*, *p*  
 A - ve, Re - gi - na cae - lo - rum, A - ve Do - mi - na An - ge - lo -

B. *p* — *f* *mf* *> mp*, *p*  
 A - ve, Re - gi - na cae - lo - rum, A - ve Do - mi - na An - ge - lo -



**H**  $\text{♩} = 48$  with other-worldly reverence

52

S. *♯♯♯* ♩ — — — —

A. *♯♯♯* ♩ — — — —

T.1 *♯♯♯* ♩ — — — — *p* ♩ — — — —  
 rum: Our la - dy

T.2 *♯♯♯* ♩ — — — — *p* ♩ — — — —  
 rum: Our la - dy

Bar. *♯♯♯* ♩ — — — — *p* ♩ — — — —  
 rum m — — — —

B. *♯♯♯* ♩ — — — — *p* ♩ — — — —  
 Re - gi - na — Our la - dy —

10 56

S. - - - - -

A.1 **p** (n) (n) (n) for a

A.2 **p** (n) (n) **mp** And they crowned her

T.1 **mp** 8 Our La-dy went in-to a strange coun try

T.2 **p** 8 and they

B. **p** (n) (n) and they

**poco accel.**

59

S. - - - - -

A.1 **p** **mp** **p** queen a queen, **mp** crowned her for a queen

A.2 and they crowned her

T.1 **p** **mp** they crowned her, crowned her

T.2 **p** crowned her for a queen crowned

B. **p** crowned queen **p** crowned

65

S.1      bro - ken      down      un -

S.2      down, —      down      un-der      *f*      *mp*      *mf*      down, —      down      un-der      un - bear - a - ble      beau - ty

A.      down      un - bear - a - ble      beau - ty      un -

T.1      down      un-der      *f*      down      un-der      beau -

T.2      down      un-der      *f*      *mp*      ah      beau - ty

B.      down      ah      *(b)* 8      beau - ty

12 68 *f* rit.  $\text{♩} = 48$

S.1 bear - a - ble beau - ty as we have

S.2 beau - ty as we have been

A. bear - a - ble beau - ty

T. beau ty (n)

B. beau - ty (n)

**I**  $\text{♩} = 58$  desolate *p an echo*

S.1 Va - le Et pro no - bis

S.2

A.1

A.2 *mp* *p* Va - le, o val - de de-

T. Va - le, o val - de de-co - ra,

B.

75 **pp** **poco rit.**

S.1 Et pro no - bis

S.2

A.1 *an echo* (m)  
co - ra, Chris - tum

A.2 Chris - tum ex - or - a

T. (m)  
8

B.

**circa 5 mins**