

Ave Regina caelorum

for SSAATTBB

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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

$\text{♩} = 62$

S

solo
mp gentle, loving

A - ve

A

solo
mf gentle, loving

mp

mp

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

T

B



5

S.1

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

S.2

A - ve,

A.

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

T.

B.

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

S. cae - lo - rum, — A - ve, Re-gi-na

p *urgent whisper - magical* **pp**

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

pp *urgent whisper - magical*

T. A - ve, Re-gi-na

pp *urgent whisper - magical*

B. A - ve, Re-gi-na

13 *rushed** **pp** **mp** **p** **pp**

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

*rushed** **pp** **mp** **p** **mf** **pp** **pp**

A.1 A - ve, Re-gi na A - ve, Re-gi na Re-gi-na, A - ve, Re-gi-na cae-lo -

*rushed** **pp** **mp** **p** **pp**

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

*rushed** **pp** **mp** **p** **pp**

B. 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 *mf* *mp* 3

S.1 rum, A - - ve

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

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

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

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



19 *mf* *p* *intense* Re-gi-na cae-lo-rum

S. A - - - ve A - ve Re - gi-na

A. A - - - ve A - ve Re - gi-na,

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

B. solo *mf* *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:

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

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

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



23

S. *pp* *p* Do-mi-na An-ge-lo - rum:
A - ve A - - ve A -

A. *p* *mp*
Do-mi-na An-ge-lo - rum: A-ve Re-gi-na A -

T. *p* *mp*
An-ge - lo-rum: A - - ve A -

B. *p* *mp* *p*
An-ge - lo-rum: A-ve, Re-gi- na A - ve

D poco meno mosso ♩ = 58

5

26

S. *p* -ve

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

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

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

mp Do-mi na_



30

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

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

— Re - gi - na

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** *p*

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

S.2 *p* - rum: Sal - ve ra - dix, sal -

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

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

T. *p* Do - mi - na Sal - ve Sal - ve

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

37 *mp* *p*

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

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

A.1 *mp* *p* - ve Sal - ve sal - ve

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

T. *mp* *p* 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. A - ve, Re - gi-na cae - lo - rum, *mf* solo Sal - ve

B.

p *mf* *p*

sal - ve

42 *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. sal - ve, sal - ve tutti Ex qua mun-do lux est or - ta:

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

F

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

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

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

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



G

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

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

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

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

48 *p* *f* *mf* *mp* *p*

S. A - ve, Re-gi-na cae-lo-rum, A - ve, Do-mi-na An-ge-lo -

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

T. A - ve, Re-gi-na cae-lo-rum, A - ve Do-mi-na An-ge-lo -

B. A - ve, Re-gi-na cae-lo-rum, A - ve Do-mi-na An-ge-lo -

H ♩ = 48 with other-worldly reverence

52

S. rum:

A. rum:

T.1. rum: Our la - dy

T.2. rum: Our la - dy

Bar. m

B. rum Re - gi - na Our la - dy

10 56

S.

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

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

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

T.2 *p* and they

B. (n) (n) and they

59 **poco accel.**

S.

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

A.2 *mp* and they crowned her

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

T.2 crowned her for a queen crowned

B. crowned queen— crowned

62 ♩ = 58

S.1 *mp* 11
they were

S.2 *mf*
And they were bro - ken

A. *mp*
down

T.1 *mf*
for a queen And they were bro - ken

T.2
(n) And they were bro - ken down

B. *mp*
(n) down



65

S.1
bro - ken down un -

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

A. *mp* *mf*
down un - bear - a - ble beau - ty un -

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

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

B. *f* *mp*
down ah beau - ty,

12 68 *f* *rit.* *mp* = 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)

71 **I** = 58 desolate *p an echo*

S.1 Va - le Et pro no - bis

S.2

A.1 *p* Va - le, o val - de de-

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

T.

B.

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

S.1 Et pro no - bis

S.2

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

A.2 Chris - tum ex - or - a

T. (m)

B.

circa 5 mins