

*O holy and immaculate virginity,
By what praises I may extol thee I know not:
For he whom the heavens could not contain
Thou hast born in thy womb.*

6th Responsory at Matins of Christmas; also used for Marian feasts.

Andreae Gabrielis Sacrae Cantiones [...], Liber Primus , published Antonio Gardano, Venice 1565; acknowledgements to the Bavarian State Library, whose website (<http://bildsuche.digitale-sammlungen.de>) contains a scan of the whole publication.

Barlines are editorial (one bar per *tempus* , ie. breve); ficta, ligature brackets, cautionary and courtesy accidentals are above the stave where applicable. Original note-values have been preserved as far as possible. Original mensuration marks are presented rather than imposing modern time signatures. Editorial underlay is in italics where applicable; Latin spelling has been modernised in places to aid legibility, and punctuation has been added.

This is Gabrieli's first published collection of his compositions and shows his early style. 1565 is an interesting date as Gabrieli's star was just rising in Venice - he had travelled to Munich in 1562, befriending Lassus, and then he became organist at S Marco in 1566. Quite possibly this collection, dedicated to Prince Albert, Duke of Bavaria and probably at least partially composed while in Munich, helped Gabrieli to gain the post.

As suggested on the 1565 title page, instrumental support or substitution is optional but worth considering.

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Transcribed by Alistair Kirk, on 2015-06-04 using Lilypond 2.18.2 . This score may be copied and performed freely under the terms of the CPDL license (<http://www2.cpdll.org>). Disclaimer: This is intended as a performing score, and I have added insights into the sources where possible. Any distortion of the received musical text is unintentional (constructive and informed corrections are welcome). However, I am not a professional musicologist, and this transcription should not be relied on for academic or musicological purposes.