916 Prayer to the Mother of Christ

The following setting shows that it is possible to add hymn harmonies when sufficient voices for a full SATB setting are lacking. The hymn tune is “RUSTINGTON.” The fascinating history of the Latin text (“Omni Die Dic Marie”) is treated here: CCWATERSHED.ORG/CASIMIR along with information regarding who produced the various English translations.

1a. Per te mundus laetabundus, Novo fulget lumine, Antiquarum tenebrarum Exutus caligine.
1a. Through you the world, full of joy, shines with new light, Divested of the dark mist of ancient shadows.
1b. Nunc potentes sunt egentes, Sicut olim dixeras: Et egeni fiunt pleni, Ut tu prophetaveras:
1b. Now the needy are powerful, as long ago you had said, And they have become full, as you had prophesied.

2a. Per te morum nunc pravorum Relinquuntur devia: Doctrinarum perversarum Pulsa sunt ludibria.
2a. Now through you the deviations of depraved morals are abandoned; The mockeries of perverse doctrines have been struck down.
2b. Mentis cursum tendi sursum, Pietatis studio, Corpus angi, motus frangi, Pro coelesti praemio.
2b. How the thoughts of the mind are to be lifted by zeal for piety, The body to be bound, its impulses broken, for the sake of heavenly reward.

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Women

1a. Thou, when deep est night in fer nal had for ag es shroud ed man,

Gav est us that light e ter nal promised since the world be gan.

Men

1b. God in thee hath show ered plen ty on the hun gry and the weak;

Send ing back the might y emp ty, Set ting up on high the meek.

Women

2a. Thine the prov ince to de liv er souls that deep in bond age lie

Men

2a. Thine the prov ince to de liv er souls that deep in bond-age lie
W.

21

Thine to crush, and crush for ev - er, Life de - stroy - ing her - e - sy.

M.

21

Thine to crush, and crush for ev - er, Life de - stroy - ing her - e - sy.

W.

25

2b. Thine to show that earth - ly pleas ures, All the world’s en - chant - ing bloom,

M.

25

2b. Thine to show that earth - ly pleas ures, All the world’s en - chant - ing bloom,

W.

29

Are out - ri - vall’d by the treas - ures Of the glo - rious world to come.

M.

29

Are out - ri - vall’d by the treas - ures Of the glo - rious world to come.
(3a) Mundi luxus atque fluxus Docuisti spennere: Deum quaeri, carnem teri, Vitiis resistere.
(3b) Tu portasti, inter casti Ventris clausta, Dominum Redemptorem, qui honorem Nobis reddit pristinum.
(3a) You have taught how to spurn the lusts and changes of the world, How God is to be sought and the flesh mortified, and how to resist vices,
(3b) You have carried, within the cloisters of your chaste womb, The Lord and Redeemer who restores pristine honor to us.

Chorus

3a. Teach, thy children, holy Mother, How to conquer every sin,

3b. Thou to whom a Child was given Greater than the sons of men,

37

How to love and help each other, How the prize of life to win.

41

3b. Thou to whom a Child was given Greater than the sons of men,

45

Coming down from highest heaven To create this world again.

The harmonization for the fifth verse is based on a work by Noel Rawsthorne, and can only be played by those who own a copy of "400 Last Verses." If you don't own a copy, purchase it immediately on Amazon.com