

# Vexilla Regis

Passions-Hymnus des Venantius Fortunatus (6. Jahrhundert)

Zwölf alte geistliche Weisen.

S 50,8 (RV 72,8)

Franz Liszt

1811–1886

The musical score is arranged in a system with five staves. The top four staves are for vocal parts: Soprano, Alto, Tenore, and Basso. The fifth staff is for the organ or harmonium, labeled 'Organo o Armonio ad lib.'. The music is in G major (one sharp) and 3/4 time. The lyrics are: 'Vex - il - - - la re - - - gis prod - - e - unt, cis - ste - - ri - um, qua vi - ta mor - tem per - l - get cru - cis - my - ste - - ri - um, qua vi - ta mor - tem per - ful - get cru - cis - my - ste - - ri - um, qua vi - ta mor - tem per - ful - get cru - cis - my - ste - - ri - um, qua vi - ta mor - tem per -'. The organ part features complex textures with many sixteenth notes and rests, and includes fingering numbers (4, 2, 5, 3, 1) above the notes. A large, stylized watermark 'CARUS' is overlaid on the score.

12

- - tu - lit, et mor - - te vi - - tam pro - - tu - lit.

- - tu - lit, et mor - - te vi - - tam pro - - tu - lit.

- - tu - lit, et mor - - te vi - - tam pro - - tu - lit.

- - tu - lit, et mor - - te vi - - tam pro - - tu - lit.

12

18

*p* a - ve, spes u - ni - ca, hoc pas - si - o - nis

*p* a - - ve, spes u - ni - ca, hoc pas - si - o - nis

*p* O crux, a - - ve, spes u - ni - ca, hoc pas - si - o - nis

*p* O crux, a - - ve, spes u - ni - ca, hoc pas - si - o - nis

18

*p*

25 *p* *p* *p*

tem - - - po - re pi - is ad - au - ge gra - - - ti - am, re -

tem - - - po - re pi - is ad - au - ge gra - - - ti - am, re -

tem - - - po - re pi - is ad - au - ge gra - - - ti - am, re -

tem - - - po - re pi - is ad - au - ge gra - - - ti - am,

25 *p*

31 *rit* *lento*

is - que de - - le cri - mi - na. A - - - men.

is - que de - - le cri - mi - na. A - - - men.

is - que de - - le cri - mi - na. A - - - men.

is - que de - - le cri - mi - na. A - - - men.

31 *ritenuto* . . . . . *Lento*

### Vexilla regis prodeunt

Vesperhymnus der Passionszeit (Analecta hymnica 2, 45). Text: Venantius Fortunatus. Von den insgesamt 7 Strophen hat Liszt lediglich Strophe 1 und 6 (O crux ave) sowie das abschließende Amen vertont. Text und Übersetzung in: Johann Schenk, Hymnenbuch lateinisch-deutsch, 1. Band: Die Hymnen des römischen Breviers, Regensburg (Verlag Pustet) 1951, S. 35.

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|---|--|--|
| 1. Vexilla regis prodeunt:<br>Fulget crucis mysterium,<br>Qua vita mortem pertulit,<br>Et morte vitam protulit. | Des Königs Fahnen ziehn voran:<br>Es glänzt des Kreuzes Geheimnis,<br>an dem das Leben den Tod ertrug<br>und durch den Tod das Leben gewann.           | The King's bright banners now go forth:<br>The cross glows with its mystery,<br>That cross where life once suffered death<br>And by that death gained life for us. |
| 6. O crux, ave, spes unica,<br>Hoc passionis tempore<br>Piis adauge gratiam,<br>Reisque dele crimina.<br>Amen.  | O Kreuz, sei begrüßt, einzige Hoffnung,<br>in dieser Leidenszeit<br>vermehre den Frommen die Gnade,<br>und den Schuldigen tilge die Vergehen.<br>Amen. | Hail, O cross, our one blessed hope,<br>Hail at this holy Passiontide:<br>To all the pious grant thy grace<br>And for the wicked blot out sin.<br>Amen.            |

English version by Jean Lunn