

Slavic Wonders

Jordan Sramek, Series Editor



Nobis est natus hodie

Anonymous

ROSE PUBLICATIONS

From the archives of *The ROSE ENSEMBLE*

Daniel Mahraun & Jordan Sramek, General Editors

Source:

Codex Speciálník (ca. 1500). Muzeum Východních Čech v Hradci Králové, Hradec Králové, MS Hr-7 (II A 7), f. 483r.
Dagmar Vanišová, ed. *Codex speciálník, ca 1500: písně: voci e stromenti ad libitum* (Prague: Editio Supraphon, 1990), 46.

About the source / general notes on genre:

Copied in Prague by more than 30 scribes, *Codex Speciálník* ("special songbook") is a collection of over 200 liturgical works, probably compiled for the needs of the Utraquist Protestant literary brotherhood. Alongside a number of mostly anonymous Czech-language pieces are almost 20 Latin motets by Polish composer Petrus Wilhelmi de Grudencz (1392–c. 1480), small devotional works by Englishmen Walter Frye (d. 1474?) and John Plummer (c. 1410–c. 1484), and a wide range of masses and motets from notable Franco-Flemish/Netherlandish composers including Gaspar van Weerbeke (c. 1445–post 1516), Heinrich Isaac (c. 1450–1517), Antoine Brumel (c. 1460–c. 1512), and Josquin des Prez (c. 1450–1521). Although the codex is currently kept in the Museum of Eastern Bohemia in Hradec Králové (Czech Republic), it has only been there since 1901, when it was purchased in Prague from an antique collector.

Among the collection's works by 35 known composers is a variety of anonymous Latin motets. Featured here is "Nobis est natus hodie," which begins with simple imitation, but quickly unfolds to reveal decorated lines above and below a middle-voice cantus firmus in Gregorian mode II.

Text: Anonymous

Music: Anonymous

Editorial method / notes:

Text underlay in the Soprano and Alto 2 parts is editorial throughout; text underlay of verses 2 and 3 is editorial.

Breath marks and tempo suggestion are editorial. Editorial accidentals appear above the staff.

Performance suggestions:

This piece may be transposed to suit various voicings.

The *cantus firmus* (S2) may be sung by several voices, or even played by an instrument (brass, organ, etc.), but should be *sempre legato*, while still maintaining precise tactus. Additionally, to achieve inter-cantus balance, S2 should stagger breathing whenever possible. S1 and A may be shaped with expressive phrasing and subtle articulation, as a reflection of the richness of the text.

Duration: 2m45s

Codex Speciálník (ca. 1500). Muzeum Východních Čech v Hradci Králové, Hradec Králové, MS Hr-7 (II A 7), f. 483r.
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The Rose Ensemble's recording, *Slavic Holiday: Legends from Ancient Bohemia and Poland*, is available on most download and streaming platforms.

Nobis est natus hodie

SSA

Anonymous, *Codex Specjálník* (ca. 1500)
ed. Jordan Sramek and Daniel Mahraun

(♩ = c. 56)

To us is born this day

Di[scantus] 

Ten[or] 

Con[tratenor] 

S 1 

S 2 

A 

No - bis est na - tus

From a pure Virgin

3 

No - bis est na - tus - di - e De - pu -



na - tus ho - di - e De pu - ra vir - gi -



ho - di - e De pu - ra vir -

The King of victory.

6 

- ra vir - gi - ne Rex vic - to - ri - e,



ne Rex vic - to - ri - e,



- - gi - ne Rex vic - to - ri - e,

9

S 1
rex vic - to - ri - e, rex vic - to - ri - e.

S 2
rex vic - to - ri - e, rex vic - to - ri - e.

A
Rex vic - to - ri - e, rex vic - to - ri - e.

Let us praise our Lord

13

S 1
Lau - da - mus

S 2
- da - mus nos - trum Do - mi -

A
Lau - da - mus nos - trum Do - mi - num

Mary's Son,

16

S 1
nos - trum Do - mi - num Ma - ri - a fi - li - um

S 2
num Ma - ri - a fi - li - um Re -

A
Ma - ri - a fi - li - um

The humble King.

19

S 1 Re - gem hu - mi - li - - - - um, re - gem hu -

S 2 gem hu - mi - li - um, re - gem hu -

A Re-gem hu - mi - li - - - - um, re - gem hu -

22

S 1 - mi - li - um, re - gem hu - mi - li - um.

S 2 mi - li - um, re - gem hu - mi - li - um.

A mi - li um, re - gem hu - mi - li - um.

To him be worship and glory

25

S 1 Sa - lus il -

S 2 Sa - lus il - li et glo - ri -

A Sa - lus il - li et glo - ri - a

And also victory

28

S 1
li — et glo - ri - a At - - - que vic - to - ri - a

S 2
a At - que vic - to - ri - a Per

A
At - - - que to - ri - a

Through all ages.

31

S 1
Per cunc - ta se - cu - la, per cunc - ta

S 2
cunc - ta se - cu - la, per cunc - ta

A
Per cunc - ta cu - la, per cunc - ta

34

S 1
se - la, per cunc - ta se - cu - la.

S 2
se - cu - la, per cunc - ta se - cu - la.

A
se - cu - la, per cunc - ta se - cu - la.