

O Frondens Virga
SSAA a cappella
CANTUS-006.2

arr. Chris Foss

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O FRONDENS VIRGA

SSAA a cappella

Hildegard von Bingen, arr. Chris Foss

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Text and Translation

O frondens virga	<i>O leafy branch,</i>
in tua nobilitate stans	<i>on your nobility stand firm</i>
sicut aurora procedit	<i>as sunrise proceeds.</i>
nunc gaude et letare	<i>Now be glad and rejoice,</i>
et nos debiles dignare	<i>and find our weakness worthy.</i>
a mala consuetudine liberare	<i>free us from evil ways,</i>
atque manum tuam porrige	<i>and stretch out your hand</i>
ad erigendum nos	<i>to lift us.</i>

From the Composer

Every time I notice a collection of leaves dancing together on the same breezy branch, I can't help but be mystified by their movement. Each leaf moving in its own, unique way, yet simultaneously swaying rhythmically connected to the others. Perhaps that's part of what is so captivating about Hildegard's music: that even 900 years later, it still perfectly encapsulates the feeling of searching for connections to our own spirituality through nature. As with any chant, the pace and rhythm should come from the feeling of the text. In this notation, each quarter-note head is given the pulse, with the diamond-heads moving faster, and the half and whole notes being held longer. Trills/shakes are notated as well. The short section of all parts singing text will benefit from rote speaking/response without pitches first to align things rhythmically. The key of the piece is flexible and should be adapted to the forces, acoustic, and overall program.

Biography

Hailed as "... inventive and compelling" by the Dallas Morning News, Chris Foss has been writing and arranging music for Cantus since he joined in 2008. Chris grew up in southwest Iowa and graduated from Millikin University with a BM in Commercial Music. After a short two years at the University of Nebraska directing the Vocal Jazz program and earning a graduate degree in Choral Conducting, Chris relocated to the Twin Cities and has been proud to be a part of Cantus since then. Chris has also taught voice at McNally Smith College of Music and composition at Concordia University - St. Paul. He spends his fleeting free time attempting to keep his dogs and children from jumping out of the canoe.

CANTUS-006.2

O Frondens Virga

SSAA a cappella

Hildegard von Bingen
arr. Chris Foss (b. 1983)

Molto Rubato *O leafy branch*

Soprano 1
O frondens virga

2 *in your nobility stand firm*

S1
in tu - a no - bi - li - ta - te stans.

S2
oo

A1
oo

A2
oo

6 *as sunrise proceeds* *now be glad and*

S1
si - cut au - ro - ra pro - ce - dit nunc gau - de et

S2
oo

A1
oo

A2
oo

O Frondens Virga

10 *rejoice* *and find our weakness worthy*

S1 le - ta - re et nos de - bi - les di - gna -

S2 oo oh

A1 oo oh

A2 oo oh

14 *free us from evil ways*

S1 - re a ma - la con - sue - tu - di - ne li - ber - ra - re

S2 a ma - la con - sue - tu - di - ne li - ber - ra - re

A1 a ma - la con - sue - tu - di - ne li - ber - ra - re

A2 a ma - la con - sue - tu - di - ne li - ber - ra - re

O Frondens Virga

18 *and stretch out your hand*

S 1
at - que ma - num tu - am por - ri - ge

S 2
at - que ma - num tu - am por - ri - ge oh

A 1
at - que ma - num tu - am por - ri - ge oh

A 2
at - que ma - num tu - am por - ri - ge oh

21 *to lift us*

S 1
ad e - ri - gen - dum nos

S 2

A 1

A 2

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