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THE "O" ANTIPHONS



Peter R. Hallock

1989

Advent Antiphons
for mixed choir, organ and handbells

IONIAN ARTS INC.

P.O. Box 259 • MERCER ISLAND, WASHINGTON 98040-0259

Choral and Organ Score

CH-1030

THE "O" ANTIPHONS

Advent Antiphons for mixed choir, organ and handbells

Texts from the Advent Propers

music by **PETER R. HALLOCK**
edited by Carl Crosier

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Sapiaentia Wisdom

O Sapientia, quae ex ore Altissimi prodisti, attingens a fine usque ad finem, fortiter suaviter disponensque omnia: veni ad docendum nos viam prudentiae.

O Wisdom, you came forth from the mouth of the Most High, and reach from one end of the earth to another, mightily and sweetly ordering all things: come and teach us the way of prudence.

FOR REVIEW ONLY



The musical score is written in G major (one sharp) and 8/8 time. It features a Cantor part and a Choir part. Handbells are indicated by a dashed line and a separate staff with chords. The lyrics are: O Sa-pi-én-ti-a, quae ex ore Altissimi pro-di-sti, attingens a fine úsque ad fi-nem, fórtiter suávitèr disponènsque óm-ni-a: ve-ni ad do-cén-dum nos ví-am pru-dén-ti-ae.

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Choir

mf unison *f* *mp*

O Wis - dom, You came forth from the mouth of the Most High, and

mf unison *f* *mp*

Organ

mf

Pedal

reach from one end of the earth to the oth-er, mightily and sweet-ly or-der-ing

p *f* *mf*

f *mf*

f *mf* *f* *mf* *mp* Slow *p* *pp*

all things: Come and teach us the way of pru-dence, the way of pru-dence.

f *mf* *f* *mf* *ten.* *mp* *p* *pp*

mf *ten.* *p* *pp*

FOR REVIEW ONLY



Adonai

Lord of Might

O Adonai, et Dux domus Israel, qui Moysi in igne flammae rubi apparuisti, et ei in Sina legem dedisti: veni ad redimendum nos in brachio extento.

O Adonai, Ruler of the house of Israel, you appeared to Moses in the fire of the burning bush; on Mount Sinai you gave him your law: with outstretched arm come and redeem us.

Handbells:

Cantor: *Choir:*

8 O A - do - na - i, et Dux domus Is - ra - el,

8 qui Móysi in igne flammae rubi ap - pa - ru - i - sti,

8 et ei in Si - na le - gem de - di - sti:

8 ve - ni ad re - di - men - dum nos in brá - chi - o ex - tén - to.

FOR REVIEW ONLY

PERFORMANCE NOTES

The origin of the "O" Antiphons is not known. They have been found in manuscripts from the ninth century and are frequently attributed to St. Gregory the Great. The Antiphons were chanted before and after the *Magnificat* at Vespers on the days immediately preceding Christmas. Each one presents a name given to Christ in the Old Testament and a petition asking for the fulfillment of a Scriptural promise or prophesy. The antiphon texts are the basis for the verses of the beloved Advent Hymn *Veni, veni Emmanuel*.

This publication includes the 1989 choral settings with organ and handbells by Peter Hallock which were written for an Advent Carol Service (see our publication *The "O" Antiphons—An Advent Service*).

For the initial performance, the Latin verses were sung by a men's choir from one end of the church followed by the mixed choir settings sung from the opposite end. It is also possible for a solo cantor, a few men's voices or the men of the mixed choir to sing the Latin verses. A considerable distance may exist between the organ and the choirs in as much as a critical "correspondence" between organ and singers is not intended.

When rehearsing these pieces for the first time, it is suggested that the conductor take them very slowly, encouraging the choristers to listen carefully to the chords played by the organ which set up the harmonies for the ensuing passage. Having done this a few times, the harmonic progressions should be easily managed.

The bell peals are to be played after the final note in each cadence of the chant verses. The rhythmic value of these chords should be equal to the value of the open notes of the chant. Bells should be allowed to vibrate without damping. Other possible peals are shown below:



The antiphons may be used separately as choral proper during the Advent Season, with or without the Latin verses preceding them.

A more elaborate setting of these texts by Peter Hallock may be found in our publication CH-1025.

Carl Crosier
Editor

Bells used:

