

Mater Alma: New Music On “Ave Maris Stella”

LYRICS

[01] Pietro Ponzio, *Ave maris stella*

Ave maris stella,
Dei Mater alma
atque semper virgo
felix cœli porta.

*Hail, star of the sea,
blessed Mother of God
and ever virgin,
happy gate of heaven.*

Sumens illud ave
Gabrielis ore
funda nos in pace
mutans Evæ nomen.

*Receiving that Ave
from the mouth of Gabriel[,]
establish us in peace,
changing the name of Eve (Eva).*

Solve vincla reis,
profer lumen cæcis,
mala nostra pelle,
bona cuncta posce.

*Loosen the chains of sinners,
give light to the blind,
drive away our ills,
obtain for us all good things.*

Monstra te esse matrem,
sumat per te preces
qui pro nobis natus
tulit esse tuus.

*Show thyself a mother;
may he hear thy prayers
who, born for us,
was willing to be thy Son.*

Virgo singularis,
inter omnes mitis,
nos culpis solutos
mites fac et castos.

*Virgin above all others,
meeker than all,
make us free from sin,
meek and pure.*

Vitam præsta puram,
iter para tutum
ut videntes Jesum
semper collætémur.

*Obtain for us a pure life,
make safe our path,
that seeing Jesus
we may ever rejoice with thee.*

Sit laus Deo Patri,
summo Christo decus,
Spiritui Sancto
tribus honor unus.

*To God the Father be praise,
glory to Christ on high,
honour to the Holy Ghost,
one in three.*

Amen.

Amen.

Hymn probably attributable to Venantius Fortunatus (6th-7th century), or perhaps to Paul the Deacon (8th century). English translation from Adrian Fortescue, *Latin Hymns sung at the Church of Saint Hugh, Letchworth. Arranged & translated by A.[drian] F.[ortescue]* (Letchworth: The Congregation of St Hugh, 1924), 91, 93.

[02] Francisco del Pino, *Luz*

Alma amor ave camino cielo corazón dolor
dulce esperanza espíritu estrella eterna fin
final forma gloria gozo gracia herida hijo
ilusión libres luz madre mañana mar noche
nombre nosotros padre paz pena plegaria
puerta pura siempre sol sueño ventana vida.

Soul love hail path sky heart pain
sweet hope spirit star eternal ending
end shape glory joy grace wound son
illusion free light mother morning sea night
name we father peace suffering prayer
door pure forever sun dream window life.

Original Spanish lyrics by Francisco del Pino. Words have been extracted (and then elaborated and alphabetically ordered) from different translations of *Ave maris stella*, mainly Lope de Vega's, as well as from the lyrics for Rosita Melo's *Desde el alma* by Homero Manzi and Víctor Piuma Vélez. Please note that the words *alma*, *ave*, and *mañana* all have a second meaning in Spanish: *life-bringing* (from the Latin adjective *almus*), *bird* (female), and *tomorrow*. English translation by the author.

[03] Fabrizio Nastari, *Hommik*

Kuu läks looja, kukk on ülal,
kireb juba kõigest väest.
Aralt astub üle küla
algav kalameeste päev.

*The moon set, the rooster awoke
and crowed as mightily as he could.
Slowly and with shyness
the fishermen's day begins.*

Meri ärkab, meri leegib,
laine on veel väikene.
Tema virvendavast peeglist
vaatab ennast päikene.

*The sea awakens, the sea is set aflame,
the wave is still small.
From its flickering mirror
the sun sees its reflection.*

Vastu päikest mustad küljed,
tuule sisse terav tääv –
paadid nagu suured hülged
vait on nõrga tuule käesa.

*The black hull toward the sun,
the sharp side against the wind –
boats are like big seals,
silent in midst of a weak wind.*

Mehi kaldast alla laskub
mööda kastest, märga maad.
Tull see naksub, aer see raksub,
nina välja keerab paat.

*Men are coming from the shore,
along the dewy, wet land.
The thole strains, the oar crackles,
the bow of the boat turns.*

Veel see kuldne vaikus laiub,
lõpeb aga silmapilk.
Mootor mürisedes raiub
paadipäras:
silk! silk! silk!

*A golden silence sprawls,
but stops in the blink of an eye,
ending with the roar
of the motor:
silk! silk! silk!*

Juhan Smuul, *Kuidas kalamehed elavad* [How fishermen live], 1. *Hommik* [Morning]. English translation by Riho Esko Maimets.

Ave maris stella...

Hail, star of the sea...

For full text see above, track [01].

[04] Patrick Braga, *Yemanjá*

Eeru iyá!
Yemanjá!

Foaming Mother!
Yemanjá!

A odô nilê Yemanjá.
A odô nilê awa aayo.

In the river we feel home, Yemanjá.
In the river we are in our favorite home.

Iyá ki omo won bi,
omon eja eleumbê
won darubô.

Mother, whose children will be fishes,
Lady who protected them
until they got old.

Yoruba traditional invocations and devotional formulas, freely elaborated by Patrick Braga. English translation by the author.

[05] *O Maria, maris stella* / [*Veritatem*] (Codex Cambrai A 410)

O Maria, maris stella,
plena gratie,
mater simul et puella,
vas mundicie,
templum nostri redemptoris,
sol iusticie,
porta celi, spes reorum,
thronus glorie,
sublevatrix miserorum,
vena venie,
audi servos te rogantes,
mater gratie,
ut peccata sint ablata
per te hodie,
qui te puro laudant corde
in veritate.

O Mary, star of the sea,
full of grace,
At once both mother and maiden,
vessel of cleanliness,
Temple of our Redeemer,
sun of justice,
Gate of heaven, hope of sinners,
throne of glory,
Supporter of the wretched,
fountain of forgiveness,
Hear thy servants beseeching thee,
mother of grace,
That (their) sins may be taken away
through thee this day,
Those who praise thee with a pure heart
in truth.

Anonymous. English translation from Rebecca Baltzer, «Aspects of Trope in the Earliest Motets for the Assumption of the Virgin», in *Studies in Medieval Music. Festschrift for Ernest H. Sanders*, ed. by Peter M. Lefferts and Brian Seirup (New York: Department of Music, Columbia University, 1990), 5-42: 31.

[06] *O Maria, maris stella* / [*Veritatem*] (Codex Las Huelgas)

O Maria, maris stella...

O Mary, star of the sea...

For full text see above, track [05].

[07] *O Maria, virgo davitica / O Maria, maris stella / Veritatem* (Codex Montpellier H 196)

O Maria, virgo davitica,
virginum flos, vite spes unica,
via venie,
lux gratie,
mater clementie,
sola iubes in arce celica.
Obediunt tibi milicie;
sola sedes in throno glorie,
gratia plena fulgens, deica.
Stelle stupent de tua facie,
sol, luna de tua potentia,
que luminaria
in meridie
tua facie
vincis omnia.
Prece pia mi(t)tiga filium,
miro modo cuius es filia,
ne iudicemur in contrarium,
sed det eterna vite premia.

*O Mary, Virgin of David's line,
flower of virgins, the one hope of life,
path of pardon,
light of grace,
mother of mercy,
you alone command in the heavenly court.
The hosts obey you,
you alone sit on the throne of glory,
shining, full of grace, divine.
The stars are overwhelmed by your face,
the sun and moon by your power,
for you by your face
outshine
all the lights
at mid-day.
With a pious prayer mollify your Son,
whose daughter you are miraculously,
lest the judgement go against us;
let Him give us the eternal rewards of life.*

Anonymous. English translation from *The Montpellier Codex. Part IV: Texts and Translations*, trans. by Susan Stakel and Joel Relihan, Recent Researches in the Music of the Middle Ages and Early Renaissance VIII (Madison: A-R Editions, 1985), 21.

O Maria, maris stella...

O Mary, star of the sea...

For full text see above, track [05].

[08] **Marco Benetti, Ave**

Ave del mare stella,
Madre di Dio pregiata,
Vergine alma, et beata
porta, che n'apri il ciel lucente e bella.

*Hail, star of the sea,
precious Mother of God,
life-bringing Virgin, and happy
door who open the heaven, shining and beautiful.*

First stanza of an anonymous translation of *Ave maris stella* into Italian vernacular. See *Libro delle laudi spirituali dove in uno sono compresi i tre libri gia stampati [...]* (Roma: Alessandro Gardano, 1589), fol. 63v. English translation by Giovanni Cestino.

Ave maris stella,
Dei Mater alma
atque semper virgo
felix cœli porta.

*Hail, star of the sea,
blessed Mother of God
and ever virgin,
happy gate of heaven.*

See above, track [01].

[9] Giovanni Albini, *Ave maris stella Op. 62*

Ave maris stella...

Hail, star of the sea...

For full text see above, track [01].

[10] Corrado Margutti, *Ave maris stella*

Ave maris stella...

Hail, star of the sea...

Vorausbestimmt zur Sternenbahn,

Ordained to move as planets do,

Sumens illud ave...

Receiving that Ave...

was geht dich, Stern, das Dunkel an?

what matters, star, the dark to you?

Solve vincla reis...

Loosen the chains of sinners...

Roll' selig hin durch diese Zeit!

Roll blithely through our human time!

Monstra te esse matrem...

Show thyself a mother...

Ihr Elend sei dir fremd und weit!

Beyond its wretched mis'ry climb!

Virgo singularis...

Virgin above all others...

Der fernsten Welt gehört dein Schein!

The furthest world deserves your shine:

Vitam præsta puram...

Obtain for us a pure life...

Mitleid soll Sünde für dich sein!

For you compassion is a crime!

Sit laus Deo Patri...

To God the Father be praise...

Nur Ein Gebot gilt dir: sei rein!

One law applies to you: be thine!

Amen.

Amen.

For full text of the hymn see above, track [01]. After the first stanza, verses from *Sternenmoral* [*Stellar Morals*] by Friedrich Nietzsche are interpolated one by one. English translation from Friedrich Wilhelm Nietzsche, *Stellar Morals*, in *The Gay Science. With a Prelude in German Rhymes and an Appendix of Songs*, edited by Bernard Williams, translated by Josefine Nauckhoff, poems translated by Adrian Del Caro (Cambridge, UK ; New York: Cambridge University Press, 2001), 23.

[11] Bruno Bettinelli, *In paradisum*

In paradisum deducant te Angeli;
in tuo adventu suscipiant te Martyres,
et perducant te in civitatem sanctam Jerusalem.
Chorus Angelorum te suscipiat,
et cum Lazaro quondam paupere
aeternam habeas requiem.

*May the Angels lead you into paradise:
may the martyrs receive you at your coming,
and lead you into the holy city, Jerusalem.
May the choir of Angels receive you,
and with Lazarus, who once was poor,
may you have everlasting rest.*

Antiphon from the Requiem Mass. English translation from Richard Rice, ed., *The Parish Book of Chant*, Expanded second edition (s.l.: The Church Music Association of America, 2012), 166.