

In dulci jubilo

Good Christian men, rejoice!

(Christmas)

I

 Thirteenth-century?
 (arr. Michael Praetorius, 1571-1621)

1. In dul - ci ju - bi - lo,¹ nun sing - et und seid
 Let songs - and glad - ness

froh! Un - sers Her - zen Won - ne leit in prae - se - pi -
 flow! All our joy re - cli - neth

- o,² und leuch - tet als die Son - ne ma - tris in gre - mi -
 And like the sun he shi - neth

- o,³ Al - pha es et O!⁴ Al - pha es et O!

¹ with sweet jubilation ² in a manger ³ in [your] mother's lap ⁴ You are Alpha and Omega.

The text is Luther's own translation of the Advent office hymn 'Veni, Redemptor gentium' (2), which is sung nowadays during both the Advent and Christmas seasons. It appeared in the first Lutheran hymn-book, *Etlich cristlich Lider Lobgesang und Psalm* (Wittenberg, 1523-4), which also included his translation of 'A solis ortus cardine', 'Christum wir sollen loben schon' (61). The melody is an adaptation (possibly also by Luther himself) of the plainchant, and was printed in the Erfurt *Enchiridion* of 1524.

Setting I is by Seth Calvisius (or Kalwitz) in his *Hymni Sacri Latini et Germanici* (1594). Setting II is the conclusion of

Bach's Cantata 36, *Schwingt freudig euch empor*, where the text is the last verse of 'Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland'.

There is no acceptable existing English translation that fits this rather awkward metre, so we have retranslated the text, adapting and conflating a number of existing attempts, to allow the noble melody to be sung by English-speaking congregations.

PERFORMANCE I, voices and instruments and/or organ; II, choir and organ, perhaps with Bach's instrumentation.

- | | |
|---|--|
| <p>2 <i>O Jesu parvule,</i>
nach dir ist mir so weh.
Tröst mir mein Gemüte,
<i>o Puer optime;</i>
durch alle deine Güte,
<i>o Princeps Glorïae,</i>
<i>trahe me post te!</i></p> <p>3 <i>O Patris caritas!</i>
<i>O Nati lenitas!</i>
Wir wärn all' verloren
<i>per nostra crimina;</i>
so hat er uns erworben
<i>coelorum gaudia;</i>
eia, wärn wir da!</p> <p>4 <i>Ubi sunt gaudia?</i>
Nirgends mehr denn da,
da die Engel singen
<i>nova cantica,</i>
und die Schellen klingen
<i>in Regis curia;</i>
Eia, wärn wir da!</p> | <p>2 <i>O Jesu parvule,</i>⁵
I yearn for thee always!
Comfort me and stay me,
<i>O Puer optime,</i>⁶
By thy great love I pray thee,
<i>O Princeps Glorïae,</i>
<i>Trahe me post te!</i>⁷</p> <p>3 <i>O Patris caritas!</i>
<i>O Nati lenitas!</i>⁸
Condemned we had remained
<i>Per nostra crimina;</i>⁹
But he for us hath gainèd
<i>Coelorum gaudia.</i>¹⁰
In paradise afar,
Where joys unending are.</p> <p>4 <i>Ubi sunt gaudia</i>¹¹
More deep than heaven's are?
In heaven are angels singing
<i>Nova cantica,</i>¹²
In heaven the bells are ringing
<i>In Regis curia.</i>¹³
O that we were there!</p> |
|---|--|

vv. 1, 2, 4 *fourteenth-century*
v. 3 *Valentin Triller (d.1573)*
(Praetorius, 1607)

tr. editors

⁵ O infant Jesus ⁶ O best of boys ⁷ O Prince of Glory, draw me after you [to heaven] ⁸ O love of the Father! O mercy of the Son! ⁹ through our sins ¹⁰ the joys of heaven ¹¹ Where are joys(?) ¹² new songs ¹³ in the courts of the King