

47 c) Pange lingua

The text was written in 1263 by the Italian scholar-priest St Thomas Aquinas, at the request of the pope, to fit an earlier melody. It is in the Phrygian mode. The letter 't' when followed by an 'i' should be pronounced 'tsee' in the following words: 'pretiosi', 'gentium', 'jubiliatio', and 'benedictio'. 'Laudatio' should be pronounced 'lar-oo-dar-tsee-oh'.

Idea

- Establish the mode by singing up and down a few scales (white notes E to E on a keyboard). This chant begins and ends on the final, or tonic, of the mode.

Listen out

- The first phrase contains two leaps in close succession; make sure they stay in tune.

Performing

- Begin with a solo voice, and alternate between groups and full voices for variety in different verses.

Translation:

- 1 Of the glorious Body telling,
O my tongue, its mysteries sing,
And the Blood, all price excelling,
Which the world's eternal King,
In a noble womb once dwelling,
Shed for this world's ransoming.
- 2 Given for us, for us descending,
Of a Virgin to proceed,
Man with man in converse blending,
Scattered he the Gospel seed,
Till his sojourn drew to ending,
Which he closed in wondrous deed.
- 3 Glory let us give, and blessing
To the Father and the Son;
Honour, might and praise addressing,
While eternal ages run;
Ever too his love confessing,
Who, from both, with both is one. Amen.

mp

1. Pan - ge lin - gua glo - ri - o - si Cor - po - ris my - ste - ri - um,
2. No - bis da - tus, no - bis na - tus Ex in - ta - cta Vir - gi - ne,

San - gui - nis que pre - ti - o - si, Quem in mun - di pre - ti - um
Et in mun - do con - ver - sa - tus Spar - so ver - bi se - mi - ne,

Fru - ctus ven - tris ge - ne - ro - si Rex ef - fu - dit gen - ti - um.
Su - i mo - ras in - co - la - tus Mi - ro clau - sit or - di - ne.

mf

3. Ge - ni - to - ri, Ge - ni - to - que Laus et ju - bi - la - ti - o,
Sa - lus, ho - nor, vir - tus quo - que Sit et be - ne - di - cti - o;

dim. *p*
Pro - ce - den - ti ab u - tro - que Com - par sit lau - da - ti - o. A - men.