

LISTENING GUIDE 5

4:38

Josquin: *Ave Maria . . . virgo serena (Hail Mary . . . gentle virgin)*

DATE: 1480s?

GENRE: Latin motet

What to listen for

Melody	High vs. low voices, singing in pairs; opening phrase quotes a chant.	Form	Sectional according to strophes of the poem (each begins “Ave”).
Rhythm/meter	Duple meter, with shift to triple, then back.	Expression	Personal plea from composer at the end.
Harmony	Consonant; hollow-sounding cadences.	Performing forces	Four-voice choir; <i>a cappella</i> .
Texture	Imitative polyphony, with moments of homorhythm.	Text	Rhymed, strophic prayer to the Virgin Mary.

	TEXT	TRANSLATION	DESCRIPTION
0:00	Ave Maria, gratia plena, Dominus tecum, virgo serena.	Hail Mary, full of grace, The Lord is with you, gentle Virgin.	Four voices in imitation (SATB) quote chant; duple meter.
0:45	Ave cujus conceptio Solemni plena gaudio Caelestia, terrestria, Nova replet laetitia.	Hail, whose conception, Full of solemn joy, Fills the heaven, the earth, With new rejoicing.	Two and three voices, later four voices; more homorhythmic texture.
1:21	Ave cujus nativitas Nostra fuit solemnitatis, Ut lucifer lux oriens, Verum solem praeveniens.	Hail, whose birth Was our festival, As our luminous rising light Coming before the true sun.	Voice pairs (SA/TB) in close imitation, then four voices in imitation.
1:59	Ave pia humilitas, Sine viro fecunditas, Cujus annuntiatio, Nostra fuit salvatio.	Hail, pious humility, Fertility without a man, Whose annunciation Was our salvation.	Voice pairs (SA/TB); a more homorhythmic texture.
2:27	Ave vera virginitas, Immaculata castitas, Cujus purificatio Nostra fuit purgatio.	Hail, true virginity, Unspotted chastity, Whose purification Was our cleansing.	Triple meter; clear text declamation; homorhythmic texture.
3:04	Ave praeclara omnibus Angelicis virtutibus, Cujus fuit assumptio Nostra glorificatio.	Hail, famous with all Angelic virtues, Whose assumption was Our glorification.	Imitative voice pairs; return to duple meter.
3:59	O Mater Dei, Memento mei. Amen.	O Mother of God, Remember me. Amen.	Completely homorhythmic; text declamation in long notes, separated by rests.