

O come, O come, Emmanuel:

The “O” Antiphons and the Music of Advent

65 (or 30)

Veni, veni Emmanuel.

ADVENT.

MATT. i., 23.

* * * "They shall call his name Emmanuel, which being interpreted is,
God with us."

From a French Missal in the
National Library, Lisbon.

D

raw nigh, draw nigh, Em - man-u-el, And ransom captive Is - ra-el,

Veni Emmanuel

Hymnal Noted

London: Novello, 1856



"O" Antiphons
14th-century
Swiss antiphonary
CH-E 611

The “O” Antiphons

*O Sapientia,
quae ex ore Altissimi prodiisti,
attingens a fine usque ad finem,
fortiter suaviterque disponens omnia:
veni ad docendum nos viam prudentiae.*

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

*O radix Jesse,
qui stas in signum populorum,
super quem continebunt reges os suum,
quem Gentes deprecabuntur:
veni ad liberandum nos, jam noli tardare.*

O Wisdom,
coming forth from the mouth of the Most High,
reaching from one end to the other mightily,
and sweetly ordering all things,
come and teach us the way of prudence.

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

O Root of Jesse,
standing as an ensign among the peoples,
before you kings will shut their mouths,
to you the nations will make their prayer;
come and deliver us, and delay no longer.

*O Clavis David, et sceptrum domus Israel;
qui aperis, et nemo claudit;
claudis, et nemo aperit:
veni, et educ vincatum de domo carceris,
sedentem in tenebris, et umbra mortis.*

*O Oriens,
splendor lucis aeternae, et sol justitiae:
veni, et illumina sedentes in tenebris, et umbra
mortis.*

*O Rex Gentium, et desideratus earum,
lapisque angularis, qui facis utraque unum:
veni, et salva hominem, quem de limo formasti.*

O Key of David and scepter of the house of Israel;
you open and no one can shut;
you shut and no one can open;
come and lead the prisoners from the prison house,
those who dwell in darkness and in the shadow of
death.

O Morning Star,
splendor of light eternal and sun of righteousness:
come and enlighten those that dwell in darkness and
in the shadow of death.

O King of the nations, and their desire,
the cornerstone making both one,
come and save the human race whom you fashioned
from clay.

*O Emmanuel, Rex et legifer noster,
exspectatio Gentium, et Salvator earum:
veni ad salvandum nos, Domine, Deus noster.*

O Emmanuel, our King and our lawgiver,
the hope of the nations and their Savior;
come and save us, O Lord our God.

*O **S**apientia...*

*O **A**donai...*

*O **R**adix Jesse...*

*O **C**lavis David...*

*O **O**riens...*

*O **R**ex gentium...*

*O **E**mmanuel...*

ERO CRAS

O Come, O Come Emmanuel

- 18th-century paraphrase of the “O” Antiphons
- Hymn text history and evolution
 - *Psalteriolum Cantionum Catholicarum* (Cologne, 1710): 5 stanzas, Latin
- Tune (*Veni Emmanuel*)
 - Pairing of text and tune not until 1851: Thomas Hellmore’s *Hymnal Noted*
 - Plainsong-inspired, but murky origins for many years
 - 1966: source connected— 15th-century French processional manuscript

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DRAW nigh, draw nigh, Em - man-u-el, And ransom captive Is - ra-el,

Veni Emmanuel
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The “O” Antiphons and O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

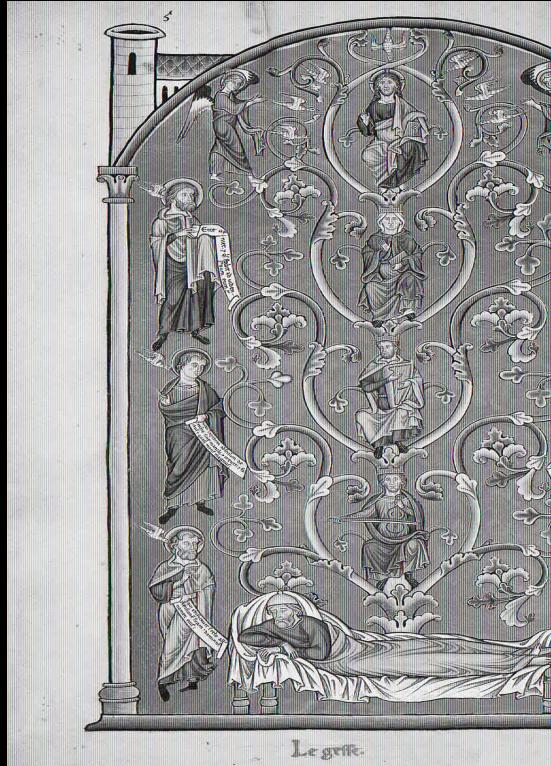
<i>O Sapientia</i>	→	2 O come, thou Wisdom
<i>O Adonai</i>	→	3 O come, O come, thou Lord of might
<i>O Radix Jesse</i>	→	4 O come, thou Branch of Jesse's tree
<i>O Clavis David</i>	→	5 O come, thou Key of David
<i>O Oriens</i>	→	6 O come, thou Dayspring from on high
<i>O Rex gentium, et desideratus earum</i>	→	7 O come, Desire of nations
<i>O Emmanuel</i>	→	1, 8 O come, O come, Emmanuel

Alice Parker: O Come, O Come Emmanuel

- Alice Parker
 - Longtime collaborator of Robert Shaw
 - Extensive body of folksong and spiritual arrangements
- Mensuration canon
 - Tenors and basses in augmentation



O radix Jesse



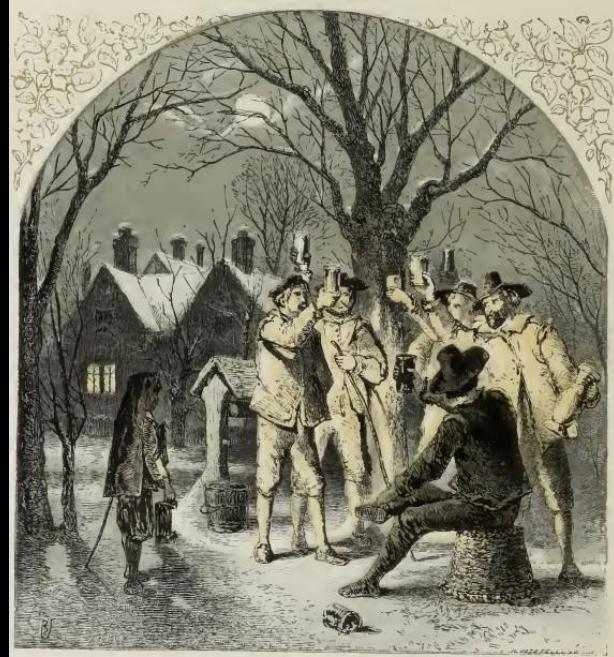
Ingeborg Psalter, Northern France, ca. 1195
Chantilly, Musée Condé, Ms. 1695. fol. 14v

*O radix Jesse,
qui stas in signum populorum,
super quem continebunt reges os suum,
quem Gentes deprecabuntur:
veni ad liberandum nos, jam noli tardare.*

O Root of Jesse,
standing as an ensign among the peoples,
before you kings will shut their mouths,
to you the nations will make their prayer;
come and deliver us, and delay no longer.

Jesus Christ the apple tree

- Anonymous 18th-century text
- Root of Jesse
- Song of Solomon 2:3
 - As an apple tree among the trees of the wood, so is my beloved among young men
- Tree of life
 - Genesis
 - Luke 13:18-19
- Historical English winter tradition of orchard-wassailing



"HERE's to thee, old apple-tree,
Whence thou may'st bud, and thou may'st blow !
And whence thou may'st bear apples enow !
Hats full ! caps full !
Bushel—bushel—sacks full !
And my pockets full too ! Huzza ! "

Henry Vizetelly's *Christmas with the Poets*
Published by David Bogue, 1855

Elizabeth Poston: Jesus Christ the apple tree

1 The tree of life my soul hath seen
Laden with fruit, and always green:
The trees of nature fruitless be
Compared with Christ the apple tree

...

3 I'm weary with my former toil
Here I will sit and rest awhile:
Under the shadow I will be
Of Jesus Christ the apple tree



O Oriens

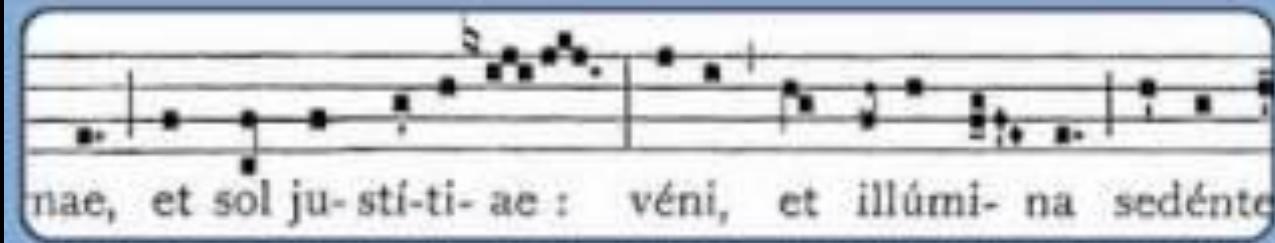
Sap. 7, 26; Mal. 4, 2; Lc. 1, 78-79

Ant.
2 d.

O-ri- ens, * splendor lu-cis æ-térnæ
et sol iustí- ti- æ: ve-ni et illúmi- na sedéntes
in té-nebris et umbra mor-tis. Eu o u a e.

O Morning Star,
splendor of light eternal
and sun of righteousness:
come and enlighten
those that dwell in darkness
and in the shadow of death.

Melissa Dunphy: *O Oriens*



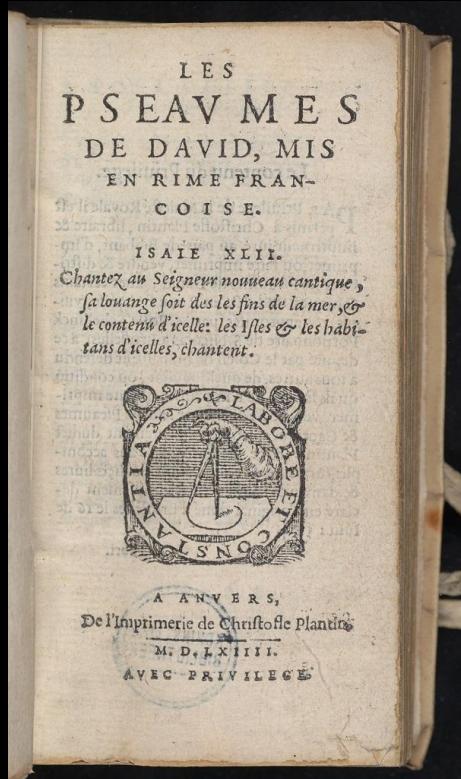
A musical score for plainchant, featuring a single melodic line on a staff. The music consists of short, rhythmic notes primarily on the fourth and fifth lines of the staff. The lyrics are written below the staff, aligned with the notes. The lyrics are: "nae, et sol ju-sti-ti- ae : véni, et illúmi- na sedénte". The entire image is set against a light blue background.

O Oriens, plainchant

Melissa Dunphy: *O Oriens*

A musical score page featuring four staves of music for voice and piano. The vocal line consists of lyrics: "so - don - kno - so - don - tis - in - te - ne - brin -". The piano accompaniment features sustained notes and chords. The score is labeled "Dunphy - O'Brien" at the top.

Comfort, comfort ye my people (*Genevan Psalm 42*)



The Hymnal 1982, #67

1 Comfort, comfort ye my people
speak ye peace, thus saith our God
Comfort those who sit in darkness
mourning ‘neath their sorrows’ load.

Organ voluntaries on *Genevan Psalm 42*

Johann Gottfried Walther:
Freu dich sehr, O meine Seele
(Rejoice greatly, O my soul)

Musical score for Johann Gottfried Walther's organ voluntary. The score consists of two systems of music. The top system starts at measure 6 and ends at measure 10. The bottom system starts at measure 11 and ends at measure 15. Both systems are in common time and major key. The notation includes various note heads (circles, squares, triangles) and rests. Fingerings are indicated above the notes, such as '1' or '2'. Measure 11 features a basso continuo line with a bass clef and a soprano line with a soprano clef.

Rachel Laurin:
Epilogue on *Genevan Psalm 42*

Musical score for Rachel Laurin's organ voluntary epilogue. The score is in common time and major key. It features a single melodic line with grace notes and slurs. The dynamic instruction "Più mosso" is written above the staff. The instrument specified is "Reeds (Chamades or others)". The score includes several basso continuo entries marked with "v".