

# Pageantry

## 24 The Laudes regiae, or Royal Acclamations *Christus vincit*

DOH = C

First note A

First time CANTORS repeated by ALL

(1) CANTORS (2) ALL

Chri-stus vin - cit, Chri-stus re-gnat, Chri-stus im-pe-rat. Ex - áu - di Chri-  
Christ is vic - tor, Christ is rul - er, Christ is em-pe-ror. O hear our prayer

CANTORS

ste. Sum-mo pon-ti-fi-ci et u-ni-ver-sá-li Pa-pae vi - ta. Sal-vá -  
Christ. To the high pon-tiff and un-i-ver-sal Ho-ly Fa-ther long life. Sa-viour

ALL

CANTORS

ALL

tor mun-di, Tu il - lum ád - ju - va. San-cte Pe-tre, Tu il -  
of all men, Grant help and strength to him. Saint Pe-ter, Grant help

CANTORS

ALL

CANTORS

lum ád - ju - va. San-cte Cle-mens, Tu il - lum ád - ju - va. San-cte  
and strength to him. Saint Cle-ment, Grant help and strength to him. Saint

ALL

ALL

Six - te, Tu il - lum ád - ju - va. Chri-stus vin-cit, Chri-stus re-gnat,  
Six - tus, Grant help and strength to him. Christ is vic-tor, Christ is ru-ler,

CANTORS

Chri-stus im-pe-rat. Ex - áu - di Chri - ste. Re - gi An - gló-rum, a  
Christ is em-pe-ror. O hear our prayer, Christ. To the King of Eng-land, an -

CANTORS

De - o co - ro - ná - to, sa - lus et vic-tó - ri - a. Re-dém-ptor mun-di,  
noin ted and crowned by God, grant long life and vic-to-ry. Re deem-er of men,

ALL

CANTORS

ALL

Tu il - lum ád - ju - va. San-cte AEd-mún-de, Tu (etc.)  
Grant help and strength to him. Saint ... Ed-mund, Grant (etc.)

ALL ALL

San-cte Er-mi-ni-gil-de, Tu (etc.) Chri-stus (etc.)  
 Saint Her-me-ne-gild, Grant (etc.) Christ is (etc.)

CANTORS

Ex-áu-di (etc.) Re-gi-nae An-gló-rum, sa-lus et vi-ta.  
 O hear (etc.) To the Queen of Eng-land, grant health and long life.

ALL CANTORS

Re-dém-ptor mun-di, Tu il-lam ad-ju-va. San-cta Ma-rí-a,  
 Re-deem-er of men, Grant help and strength to her. Saint Ma-ry,

ALL CANTORS ALL CANTORS

Tu (etc.) San-cta Fe-lí-ci-tas, Tu (etc.) San-cta AE-thel-dri-da,  
 Grant (etc.) Saint Fe-li-ci-ty, Grant (etc.) Saint E-thel-dre-da,

ALL CANTORS

Tu (etc.) Chri-stus (etc.) Ex-áu-di (etc.) Ar-chi-e-pí  
 Grant (etc.) Christ is vic-tor (etc.) O hear (etc.) May God pro-tect

CANTORS

sco-pum et om-nem cle-rum si-bi com-mís-sum, De-us con-sér-vet. Sal-vá-  
 the Arch-bish-op and cler-gy to his care gi-ven, and may God bless them. Sa-viour

ALL CANTORS ALL

tor mun-di, Tu il-los ad-ju-va. San-cte E-al-phé-ge, Tu il-los (etc.)  
 of all men, Granthelp and strength to them. Saint . . Al-phege, Grant (etc.)

CANTORS ALL CANTORS ALL

San-cte Tho-ma, Tu il-los (etc.) San-cte Dun-stá-ne, Tu il-los (etc.)  
 Saint Tho-mas, Grant (etc.) Saint . . Dun-stan, Grant (etc.)

CANTORS

Chri-stus (etc.) Ex-áu-di (etc.) E-pí-sco-pum et om-nem  
 Christ is vic-tor (etc.) O hear (etc.) May God keep the Bi-shop and

cle-rum si-bi com-mís-sum, De-us con-sér-vet. Sal-vá-tor mun-di,  
 cler-gy to his care gi-ven, And may God bless them. Sa-viour of all men,

ALL CANTORS ALL CANTORS

Tu il - los (etc.) San - cte Os - wál - de, Tu il - los (etc.) San - cte Wul - stá - ne,  
Grant (etc.) Saint . . Os - wald, Grant (etc.) Saint . . Wul - stan,

ALL \* CANTORS ALL

Tu il - los (etc.) San - cte Eg - wí - ne, Tu il - los (etc.) Chri - stus (etc.)  
Grant (etc.) Saint . . Eg - win, Grant (etc.) Christ is vic - tor (etc.)

CANTORS

Ex - áu - di (etc.) Om - ni - bus prin - ci - pi - bus, et cunc - to ex - er - ci - tu - i  
O hear (etc.) To our Eng - lish prin - ces now, our lea - ders and to all our En -

ALL

An - gló - rum, sa - lus et vic - tó - ri - a. Sal - vá - tor mun - di, Tu il - los (etc.)  
glish ar - mies, grant long life and vic - to - ry. Sa - viour of all men, Grant (etc.)

CANTORS ALL CANTORS ALL

San - cte Mau - ri - ci, Tu il - los (etc.) San - cte Geor - gi, Tu il - los (etc.)  
Saint . . Mau - rice Grant (etc.) Saint . . . George Grant (etc.)

CANTORS ALL CANTORS

San - cte Se - ba - sti - á - ne, Tu il - los (etc.) Chri - stus (etc.) Rex re - gum.  
Saint Se - ba - sti - an, Grant (etc.) Christ is vic - tor (etc.) King of kings.

ALL CANTORS ALL CANTORS ALL

Chri - stus vin - cit. Rex no - ster. Chri - stus re - gnat. Gló - ri - a no - stra. Chri -  
Christ is vic - tor. Christ our King. Christ is ru - ler. Christ our sole glo - ry. Christ

CANTORS ALL CANTORS

stus im - pe - rat. Au - xi - li - um no - strum. Chri - stus vin - cit. For - ti - tú - do  
is em - pe - ror. Christ our help and re - fuge, Christ is vic - tor. Christ our one for -

ALL CANTORS

no - stra. Chri - stus re - gnat. Li - be - rá - ti - o, et re - dém - pi - ti - o  
ti - tude. Christ is ru - ler. Christ our free - dom, Christ our re - demp - tion through

ALL CANTORS

no - stra. Chri - stus im - pe - rat. Vic - tó - ri - a no - stra in - vic - tis - si - ma.  
the Cross. Christ is em - pe - ror. Christ, e - ver our vic - to - ry of vic - to - ries.

\*In the manuscript St. Dunstan is invoked at this point for the second time; he was, in fact, Bishop of Worcester before becoming Archbishop of Canterbury.

ALL CANTORS ALL

Chri-stus vin-cit. Mu-rus no-ster in-ex-pu-gná-bi-lis. Chri-stus re-gnat.  
 Christ is vic-tor. Christ our for-tress and Christ our safe strong-hold. Christ is ru-ler.

CANTORS ALL CANTORS

De-fén-si-o et ex-ul-tá-ti-o no-stra. Chri-stus im-pe-rat. Ip-si  
 Christ, sure de-fence and for e-ter-ni-ty our joy. Christ is em-pe-ror. Christ, do-

so-li im-pé-ri-um, gló-ri-a et po-té-stas, per im-mor-tá-li-a  
 min-ion and rule be yours, glo-ry might and power be yours, through all e-ter-ni-ty,

ALL

sé-cu-la se-cu-ló-rum. A-men. Chri-stus vin-cit, Chri-stus re-gnat,  
 un-to a-ges and a-ges. A-men. Christ is vic-tor, Christ is ru-ler,

CANTORS

Chri-stus im-pe-rat. Ip-si so-li laus et ju-bi-lá-ti-o, et be-ne-  
 Christ is em-pe-ror. Christ, to you a-lone be ju-bi-la-tion, and praise and bles-

ALL

dic-ti-o, per in-fi-ni-ta sé-cu-la se-cu-ló-rum, A-men. Chri-stus vin-cit,  
 sing be yours, for e-ver-more and un-to a-ges and a-ges. A-men. Christ is vic-tor,

CANTORS

Chri-stus re-gnat, Chri-stus im-pe-rat. Ip-si so-li ho-nor et clá-ri-tas,  
 Christ is ru-ler, Christ is em-pe-ror. Christ, to you a-lone be ho-nour, and fame

et sa-pi-én-ti-a, per in-fi-ni-ta sé-cu-la se-cu-ló-rum. A-men.  
 and wis-dom yours a-lone, for e-ver-more and un-to a-ges and a-ges. A-men.

ALL

Chri-stus vin-cit, Chri-stus re-gnat, Chri-stus im-pe-rat.  
 Christ is vic-tor, Christ is ru-ler, Christ is em-pe-ror.

These triumphant acclamations have been sung ever since the time of Charlemagne (742–814), himself a conqueror, a king and an emperor. Versions of them can be traced to many corners

of the Frankish Empire. They were sung on great and joyful public occasions, such as coronations, and also to add solemnity to the major feast days of the Church, Christmas, Easter and

Whitsunday. The *Laudes* often followed the singing of the *Gloria* in the Mass. One by one, Pope, King, Queen and Bishop were acclaimed and placed under the protection of specially chosen saints. Here is an example of the *Laudes* as sung in medieval England: they come from Worcester Cathedral (MS F 160). The saints invoked for the Pope are his earliest predecessors, Peter, Clement and Sixtus. For the King of England, three royal saints are chosen: Edmund, Hermenegild and the Northumbrian martyr, Oswald. The Queen is placed under the special protection of the Virgin Mary, the Roman matron Felicity, and the East Anglian princess, Etheldreda. The Archbishop and his clergy are protected by three former Archbishops of Canterbury, Alphege, Thomas à Becket and Dunstan. The Bishop of Worcester, very properly, has saints from his own diocese, Oswald the Bishop, Wulfstan, Dunstan again, and Egwin. The princes and armies of the realm are given protectors with military associations: Maurice, the leader of the Theban Legion, and the two martyrs George, the Patron Saint of England, and Sebastian, who was shot to death by archers.

The singing of the *Laudes* was generally led by two of the finest singers with strong, firm voices. These priests would be answered by the entire congregation. The festive character of the chant demanded loud and hearty singing; and this is borne out in the instructions contained in the sources.

On the first syllable of *Christus*, and indeed, throughout the acclamations, this little figure occurs:  and you will remember that it indicates both a repercussion and a *liquescent* (here to help you to get your tongue round the letters 'ist'). There are many other examples of *liquescents*, all of which will be familiar to you by now. Curiously enough, this thirteenth-



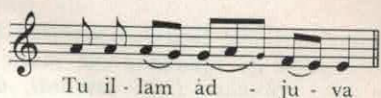
which suggests much greater speed and conciseness — caused, no doubt, by the mounting tension and excitement.

In the transcription some slight rationalization of these variants has had to be introduced to make the piece easier to sing. But it does not seem possible to explain them away altogether as a form of shorthand used by the scribe. On the contrary, the fact that the variants exist leads one to think that the scribe was writing from memory his vivid recollection of actual performance, and this suggests the way in which the style of singing can be reconstructed. Start off with great pomp and majesty, then let the crowd's acclamations gather momentum and

century manuscript from Worcester is inconsistent in its manner of notating some of the acclamations. For instance,



becomes



in the feminine (for the Queen), and when written in the masculine plural (for the Archbishop and clergy, etc.) these variants are found:



As for the *Christus vincit* refrain itself, this begins broadly with its full decoration



but towards the end of the piece it is reduced to

enthusiasm, so that the excitement continues to grow right up to the final climax.

You might like to reconstruct the whole magnificent scene of medieval pageantry as you sing these splendid acclamations, and to mime the King and Queen seated on their thrones with crowns on their heads, surrounded by the Archbishop, the Bishop of Worcester, the clergy, the monks and the nobility, and the people crowding round into the nave of the cathedral. Then the cantors would advance towards the throne to sing their solo parts, and all the crowd would reply in one tremendous chorus of sound.