

HYMN TO ST JOHN THE BAPTIST

for the eve of the feast of his birth

Melody written or found by Guido d'Arezzo,
Words, Paul the Deacon,
Arranged and translated by Nigel Williams.

1. Ut que - ant la - xis Re - so - na - re fi - bris Mi - ra ge - sto - rum Fa - mu - li tu - o - rum,
Do let thy ser - vants Re - cre - ate in te - lling Mi - ra - cles deeds and Facts of your ad - ven - tures,

So - lve po - llu - ti La - bi - i re - a - tum, Sa - ncte Jo - ha - nnes.
So - set our tongues free, La - ry - nxes un - ta - ngle, John Saint and Ba - ptist.

2. Nu - nti - us ce - lso Ve - ni - ens O - ly - mpo Te pa - tri ma - gnum Fo - re na - sci - tur - um,
Co - ming from hea - ven, Ga - bri - el the an - gel Told to your fa - ther Of your co - ming birth - day,

No - men, et vi - tae Se - ri - em ge - re - ndae Or - di - nae pro - mit.
Named you and gave him De - tails of your a - ctions, Fore - te - lling grea - tness.

Upper voices only

3. I - lle pro - mi - ssi Du - bi - us su - per - ni, Per - di - dit pro - mptae Mo - du - los lo - que - lae:
Dou - bting the pro - mise Sent him from the high - est, Lost he forth - with the Means of co - nver - sa - tion.

Lower voices only

Sed _____ re ___ - for - ma - sti Ge - ni - tus pe ___ - re - mptae Or ___ - ga ___ - na vo - cis.
 But _____ you ___ his off-spring Cured him of his ___ dumb - ness, E ___ - nding ___ his si - lence.

Melody in tenor

4. Ve-ntris o - bstru - so Re - cu - bans cu - bi - li Se - nse - ras re - gem Tha - la - mo ma - ne ___ - ntem:
 You ly - ing co ___ - vered In your li - ving cra - dle Felt in like cha - mber Pre - sence of your so ___ - vereign:

Hinc pa - rens na - ti Me - ri - tis u ___ - ter - que A - bdi - ta pa - ndit.
 Thus both the wo - men, By their sons' de ___ - ser - ving, Sang of things hi - dden.

All voices, in octaves

5. Sic de - cus Pa ___ - tri, Ge - ni - tae - que Pro - li Et ___ ti - bi, co ___ - mpar(e) U - tri - u - sque vir ___ - tus,
 Ho - nour the Fa ___ - ther And the Son be - go - tten. Ho ___ - nour the Ho ___ - ly Ghost in power co - e ___ - qual.

Spi - ri - tus se - mper, De - us un - us, ___ o - mni Te ___ - mpo ___ - ris ae - vo. A - men.
 Ho - nour we give Thee Through-out e - ndless a - ges, One ___ God ___ e - ter - nal. A - men.

for Bill Armstrong, to mark 75 years of church singing

HYMN TO ST JOHN THE BAPTIST, FOR THE EVE OF THE FEAST OF HIS BIRTH.

Traditional text and English translation.

1. Ut queant laxis Resonare fibris
Mira gestorum Famuli tuorum,
Solve polluti Labii reatum,
Sancte Johannes.

2. Nuntius celso Veniens Olympo
Te patri magnum Fore nasciturum,
Nomen, et vitae Seriem gerendae
Ordinae promit.

3. Ille promissi Dubius superni,
Perdidit promptae Modulos loquelae:
Sed reformasti Genitus peremptae
Organa vocis.

4. Ventris obstruso Recubans cubili
Senserat regem Thalamo manentem:
Hinc parens nati Meritis uterque
Abdita pandit.

5. Sic decus Patri, Genitaeque Proli
Et tibi, compare Utriusque virtus,
Spiritus semper, Deus unus, omni
Temporis aevo.
Amen.

1. Do let thy servants Recreate in telling
Miracles deeds and Facts of your adventures,
So set our tongues free, Larynxes untangle,
John Saint and Baptist.

2. Coming from heaven, Gabriel the angel
Told to your father Of your coming birthday,
Named you and gave him Details of your actions,
Foretelling greatness.

3. Doubting the promise Sent him from the highest,
Lost he forthwith the Means of conversation.
But you his offspring Cured him of his dumbness,
Ending his silence.

4. You lying covered in your living cradle
Felt in like chamber Presence of your sovereign:
Thus both the women, By their sons' deserving,
Sang of things hidden.

5. Honour the Father And the Son begotten.
Honour the Holy Ghost in power coequal.
Honour we give Thee Throughout endless ages,
One God eternal.
Amen.