

Deus, Creator Omnium

(God, the Creator of
all Things)

*An Anthem for
Mixed Voices & Organ*

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INTRODUCTION

Saturday evening has frequently been my evening for composing music. Late one Saturday evening towards the end of summer in 2005, after the rest of the family had gone to bed, I felt an urge to write an evening anthem for choir and organ. I looked around for a possible text, and it soon became clear that St. Ambrose's *Deus, Creator Omnium* was a perfect text for an astronomer to set to music. Over the following 8 months, with a lot of encouragement from my son Timothy, to whom it is dedicated, the anthem was completed.

The text of *Deus Creator Omnium* was composed by St. Ambrose (340 - 397 AD), one of the first and greatest hymn writers of the church. The hymn is contained in virtually all ancient breviaries and was used for Saturday Vespers.

St. Augustine quoted the first two stanzas of in his autobiographical *Confessions*. He describes there how the two stanzas came to mind as he was lying awake in bed the night after the funeral of his mother, St. Monnica, in 387 AD. St. Augustine also opens the last section of *De Beata Vita* with St. Monnica herself quoting the hymn's final line ("fove precantes Trinitas") in a philosophical discussions he and his friends were having.

Such a fine text as *Deus Creator Omnium* has naturally led several people to produce English paraphrases. Since these translators chose to preserve the meter of the original Latin and, in addition, to make the English couplets rhyme, the paraphrases are not word-for-word translations. As an aid for understanding the text of *Deus Creator Omnium*, a composite of three paraphrases is given on the next page. Verse 1 is taken from J. D. Chambers in *Cooke's Hymnary*, verses 2 to 5 are taken from Charles Bigg in Vaughan Williams' 1906 *The English Hymnal*, and the last verse is taken from F. A. Wright in *Fathers of the Church*.

The English paraphrases have been inserted under some of the Latin text in the vocal score in order that singers may, as St. Paul says, "sing with understanding" (φῶλον δε και τω νοι - *I Cor 14:15*).

The anthem is intended to be sung without vibrato.

Martin Gaskell

Deus, Creator Omnium

Deus, creator omnium
polique rector, vestiens
diem decoro lumine,
noctem soporis gratia,

artus solutos ut quies
reddat laboris usui
mentesque fessas allevet
luctusque solvat anxios.

Grates peracto iam die
et noctis exortu preces
votis, reos ut adiuves,
hymnum canentes solvimus.

Te cordis ima concinant,
Te vox canora concrepet,
Te diligat castus amor,
Te mens adoret sobria,

ut cum profunda clauserit
diem caligo noctium,
fides tenebras nesciat
et nox fide reluceat.

Christum rogemus et patrem
Christi Patrisque Spiritum,
unum potens per omnia
fove precantes Trinitas.
Amen.

God, the Creator of All Things

O Blest Creator, God Most High,
Great Ruler of the starry sky,
Who robing day with beauteous light
Hast clothed in soft repose the night,

That rest may comfort weary men,
And brace to useful toil again,
And soothe awhile the harassed mind,
And sorrow's heavy load unbind.

Day sinks; we thank Thee for Thy gift;
Night comes; and once again we lift
Our prayer and vows and hymns that we
Against all ills may shielded be.

Thee let the secret heart acclaim,
Thee let our tuneful voices name,
Round Thee our chaste affections cling
Thee sober reason own as King,

That when black darkness closes day,
And shadows thicken round our way,
Faith may no darkness know, and night
From faith's clear beam may borrow light.

Hail we the Father and the Son
and Son's and Father's Spirit, one
blest Trinity who all obey;
guard Thou the souls that to Thee pray.
Amen.

Deus Creator Omnium

Martin Gaskell

Andante maestoso (♩ = 62)

Soprano

Alto

Tenor

Bass

Organ

Andante maestoso (♩ = 62)

soft 8-ft principals

add Sw. reeds

mf

S

A

T

B

Org.

6

ff

ff De - us, cre-a - tor om - ni - um po -
ff Cre - a - tor of the earth and sky ru -

ff De - us, cre-a - tor om - ni - um po -

ff De - us, cre-a - tor om - ni - um po -

De - us, cre-a - tor om - ni - um po -

6 *ff* *f* *mf* *ff*

Deus, Creator Omnium

12

S
li - que re - ctor, ve - sti - ens di - em de - co - ro lu - min - ne, noc -
ling the fir - ma - ment on high clo - thing the day with robes of light Bles -

A
li - que re - ctor, ve - sti - ens di - em de - co - ro lu - min - ne, noc -

T
li - que re - ctor, ve - sti - ens di - em de - co - ro lu - min - ne, noc -

B
li - que re - ctor, ve - sti - ens di - em de - co - ro lu - min - ne, noc -

Org.
reduce mp

17

S
tem so - po - ris gra - ti - a, ar - tus sol - u - tos ut qui - es
sing with gra - cious sleep the night That rest may com - fort wea - ry men,

A
tem so - po - ris gra - ti - a, mp

T
tem so - po - ris gra - ti - a, ar - tus sol -

B
tem so - po - ris gra - ti - a,

Org.
pp

S *mp* men - tes - que fes - sas all - e - vet - lu - ctus - que
and soothe a - while the har - ass'd mind, And sor - row's

A red - dat la - bor - is us - u - i *p* lu - ctus
And brace to use - ful toil a - gain,

T u - tos ut qui - es *p* men - tes - que fes - sas all - e - vet,

B *p* lu - - - - ctus -

22

Org.

27

S *pp* sol - vat anx - i - os. *un pochettino meno mosso* (♩ = 58)
hea - vy load un - bind.

A que *p* sol - vat an - xi - os.

T all - e - vet *p* lu - ctus - que sol - vat an - xi - os. *mf* Gra - tes per -
(tenors & basses divide into three equal groups) Day sniks; we

B - que *pp* sol - vat an - xi - os. *mf* Gra - - tes - per -

27

Org. *p* Sw. 8 ft & 16ft reeds

Deus, Creator Omnium

34

S
A
T
B

ac - to iam di - e et noc - tis ex - or - tu pre -
thank Thee for Thy gift; The night comes and once a - gain we

- ac - to - iam di - e - - et - - noc - tis ex - or - tu pre -

34

Org.

pp

40

poco piu mosso (♩ = 68)

S
A
T
B

vo - tis, re - os ut - ad - iu - ves, - - hym - num
Our prayer and vows and hymns that we Against all ills

vo - tis, re os ut - ad - iu - ves, - - hy-mnum

ces vo - tis re - os ut ad - iu -

ces vo - tis, re - os ut ad - iu

40

Org.

8 44

Deus, Creator Omnium

p

S
can - en - tes sol - vi - - - mus. *p* ut ad - iu - ves *mp*
might shield - ed be

A
can - en - tes sol - vi - - - mus *p* ut ad - iu - ves *mp*

T
ves hym-num can - en - tes sol - vi - - mus *p* ut ad - iu - ves *mp*

B
ves hym - num canen tes sol - vi - - mus, hym -

44

Org.

49

S
mf hym num can - en - tes sol - vi - - - mus. *mp* Te - cor - dis *mf*
mf *mf* Thee let the

A
hym - num can - en - tes sol - vi - - mus. *mp* Te *mf*

T
hym - num can - en - tes sol - vi - - mus. *mp* Te, Te *mf*

B
num can - - - en - - tes sol - - - vi - - mus. Te, Te *mf*

49

Org.

Deus, Creator Omnium

54

S
i - ma con - cin - ant, te vox - can - o - ra con - cre - pet, Te
se - cret heart c - claim *f* Thee let our tune - ful voi - ces *ff* name,

A
cor - - - dis i - ma - - - con - cin - ant, Te

T
8 cor - - - dis i - ma con - cin - - - nant, Te
Round *ff* *Thee*

B
cor - - - dis i - ma con - cin - ant, Te

54

Org.
f L.H. Sw. 8 ft & 16ft reeds Both hands Sw. Gt. to mixture
L.H. solo reed (Gt. to Ped)

59

S
con - - - cre - pet,

A
con - - - cre - pet,

T
8 di - li - gat cas - tus a - mor *ff* Te mens a - dor - et so - bri - a
let our chaste af - fect - ions cling, Thee so - ber rea - son own as King,

B
di - li - gat cas - tus a - mor *ff* Te mens a - dor - et so - bri - a,

59

Org.
reduce *mp* Sw. reeds

10 [65]

Deus, Creator Omnium

Meno mosso (♩ = 58)

S
A
T
B

so - bri - a.

[65]

Org.

f

p R.H. - choir

pp

[71]

S
A
T
B

[71]

Org.

p

p Sw. reeds

pp

Deus, Creator Omnium

77

S
A
T
B

mp di - em ca -

Ut - cum pro - fund-da clau-ser - it di - em ca -
 That when black dark-ness clo - ses day, And sha - dows

77

Org.

pp *pp*
 Stopt. Diap.

pp

83

S
A
T
B

li - go noc - ti - um, *mf*

li - go noc - ti - um, Ut - cum pro - fund-da clau - ser -

thick-en round our way,

83

Org.

pp *p*

Sw. reeds

add to pedal

p

Deus, Creator Omnium

S
A
T
B

di - em ca - li - go noc - ti - um,
it di - em ca - li - go noc - ti - um,

Org.

mp Sw. reeds

poco a poco accel...

S
A
T
B

ff Fi - des
ff Fi - des
Faith,
f Fi - des

(♩ = 64)

Org.

R.H. reed
mp
Sw. to Gt.

S *ff* Fi - des

A *ff* Fi - des

T *con forza* *fff* Fi - des - ten - e - bras ne - sci - at
dark - ness will not know *ff* Fi - des ten - e - bras ne - sci -

B *fff* Fi - des - ten - e - bras ne - sci - at Fi - des ten - e - bras ne - sci -

Org. *f* *Gr.* *reeds*

S

A *ff* ten - e - bras - ne - sci - at, *mf* fi - des, *f* fi - des ten - e - bras

T *mf* at, *mf* fi - des *f* ten - e - bras *mf* ne - sci -

B *mf* - - fi - des, *f* fi - des ten - e - bras *mf* ne - sci - at, ten - e -

Org. *mp* *reduce*

14 111

Deus, Creator Omnium

ff

ff

S

A

T

B

ne - sci-at, *mp* *ff* fi - des ten - e - bras *ff* fi - des ten - e - bras

at, *mf* *mp* *ff* fi - des ten - e - bras ne - sci-at, *ff* fi - des ten - e - bras

bras ne - sci - at,

111

Org.

p

116

f

f

Slentando (♩ = 66)

S

A

T

B

nes - ci-at *f* et nox *f* fi - de re - lu - ce - at, *mp* et

f and night *f* from faith's may bor - row light *mp* et

nes - ci-at et nox *f* fi - de re - lu - ce - at, *mp* et

nes - ci-at et nox fi - de re - lu - ce - at, et

116

Org.

Slentando (♩ = 66)

mp

Deus, Creator Omnium

120

S
nox fi-de re-lu - ce-at.

A
nox fi-de re-lu - ce-at.

T
8
nox fi-de re-lu - ce-at.

B

Org.

120

Tempo Primo (♩ = 60) *sempre crescendo...*

p *mp* *come primo*

126

S

A

T
8

B

Org.

126

f

add pedal 8-ft & 16-ft reeds

16

Deus, Creator Omnium

Con gran suono (♩ = 62)

132

S *ff* Chris - tum ro - ge - mus et Pa - trem Chri - sti Pa - tris - que

A *ff* Hail we the Father and the Son and the Son's and Fa - ther's

T *ff* Chris - tum ro - ge - mus et Pa - trem Chri - sti Pa - tris - que

B *ff* Chris - tum ro - ge - mus et Pa - trem Chri - sti Pa - tris - que

132

poco ritenuto

Con gran suono (♩ = 62)

Org. *ff*

add 32 ft.

137

S Spi - ri - tum, un - um po - tens per om - ni - a - un - um po - tens per om - ni -

A *Spir - it, one blest Tri - ni - ty who all o - bey*

T Spi - ri - tum, un - um po - tens per om - ni - a - un - um po - tens per om - ni -

B Spi - ri - tum, un - um po - tens per om - ni - a - un - um po - tens per om - ni -

137

Org.

Deus, Creator Omnium

142

fff Marcato (♩ = 48)

piu mosso (♩ = 70)

S a fo - ve pre-can-tes, Trin - i - tas. _____
 Thou the souls that to Thee pray.

A a fo - ve pre-can-tes, Trin - i - tas. _____

T a fo - ve pre-can-tes, Trin - i - tas. _____

B a fo - ve pre-can-tes, Trin - i - tas. _____

142

Marcato (♩ = 48)

piu mosso (♩ = 70)

Org. *16-ft reed*

147

ff

S A - - - - -

A A - - - - - men.

T A - - - - - men. A - - - - -

B A - - - - - men. A - - - - - men. A -

147

Org.

18

153

Tempo Primo (♩ = 60) Deus, Creator Omnium

S men. - - - - - A - - - - - men. *p*

A A - - - - - men. *mp* - - - - - A - - - - - men. *p*

T men. Fo-ve pre - can-tes Tri - - - - - ni - tas *p*

B men. - - - - - A - - - - - men. *p*

153

Tempo Primo (♩ = 60)

Org. *pp*

reduce *ppp*

160

Piu lento (♩ = 50)

S

A

T

B

160

Piu lento (♩ = 50)

Org. *pp* Celeste

Deus, Creator Omnium

165

S *pp* *p*

A *pp* *p*
A - - - - me - n

T *pp* *p*
A - - - - me - n

B *pp* *p*
A - - - - me - n

Org. 165

Detailed description: This is a page of a musical score for the hymn 'Deus, Creator Omnium'. It features four vocal staves (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) and an Organ part. The vocal parts are written in a common time signature with a key signature of two flats. The lyrics for the vocalists are 'A - - - - me - n'. The organ part is marked with the number '165' and consists of two staves (treble and bass clef) with complex chordal textures and some melodic lines. Dynamic markings of *pp* (pianissimo) and *p* (piano) are used throughout the vocal parts. The page number '19' is in the top right corner, and the title 'Deus, Creator Omnium' is centered at the top.