Sixteen to Four

For four voices

Ian Percy

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Soprano
Alto
Tenor
Bass

Duration ca. 6-7 minutes

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2012

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For four voices (SATB)

Sixteen to Four was composed between January and March 2012. It is a consonant, but virtuosic single movement for four solo voices (SATB) or mixed choir.

The commission for this piece called for works set using a selection of Latin liturgical text taken from a specific set of Hymns of Praise, none of which directly captured the creative imagination of the composer. Selected fragments of text were cut into separate lines and rearranged to form passages of alternative narrative. This largely involved removing blatant dogma and exaggerated worship, but was further informed by personal taste, word patterns and the role of accents. However, it was not intended to subvert the meaning of the words and it is still hoped that the final text formed into a reverent and respectful prayer-type setting.

As the idea developed, a proportional symmetry (geometric asymmetry) between the different verses, lines and syllables of the Latin transcription were adopted:

Verses 1 and 2 = 6:5
Verses 2 and 3 = 5:4
Verses 3 and 4 = 4:3
Verses 4 and 5 = 3:2
Verses 5 and 6 = 2:1
Chorus 1 – 4 = 1:1

The piece has a total of 64 <u>different</u> Latin words (plus Amen) with Domine and Dominus counting as one word within the scheme; this gives us the title for the piece: *Sixteen to Four* (16 x 4).

All formal units and distribution of text can be referenced to a multiplication or division of the number sixteen (verses, sections, lines and syllables).

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Per te de tetro carcere
antiqui patres exeunt;
gloriosa Regina mundi,
parit Deum hominem;
Ille, qui clausus lapide,
victor surgit de funere.

Domine, Dominus (repeat) …

Mundus exsultans iubilat,
gemens infernus ululate;
Ille, qui clausus lapide,
victor surgit de funere
solvit a poena miseros.

Domine, Dominus (repeat) …

Solutis iam gemitibus
et inferni doloribus,
clamat angelus:
Sanctus, Sanctus, Sanctus. Sanctus, Sanctus, Sanctus.

Praeter rerum seriem
pede conculcans tartara,
mortis confractis viribus.

Clamat angelus:
Sanctus, Sanctus, Sanctus. Sanctus, Sanctus, Sanctus.

Domine, Dominus (repeat) …

In nominee Patris,
et Filli et Spiritus Sancti.

Domine, Dominus (repeat) …

Sicut erat in principio, et nunc,
et semper, et in saecula saeculorum.

Domine, Dominus (repeat) …
In sempiterna saecula

Amen

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Through you from their dread prison
our ancient fathers gain release;
glorious Queen of the world,
gives birth to God as man;
He, who was closed in with a stone,
rises victorious from death.

Lord, Lord (repeat) …

The world rejoices in exultation,
hell groans and shrieks;
He, who was closed in with a stone,
rises victorious from death
and releases wretched men from punishment.

Lord, Lord (repeat) …

With all weeping spent
and all hell's anguish,
the angel now proclaims:
Holy, Holy, Holy. Holy, Holy, Holy

Outside the natural order
crushes hell underfoot,
shattering the power of death.

The angel now proclaims:
Holy, Holy, Holy. Holy, Holy, Holy

Lord, Lord (repeat) …

In the name of the Father,
and of the Son and the Holy Spirit.

Lord, Lord (repeat) …

As it was in the beginning, is now,
and ever shall be, world without end.

Lord, Lord (repeat) …
For endless ages

Amen.

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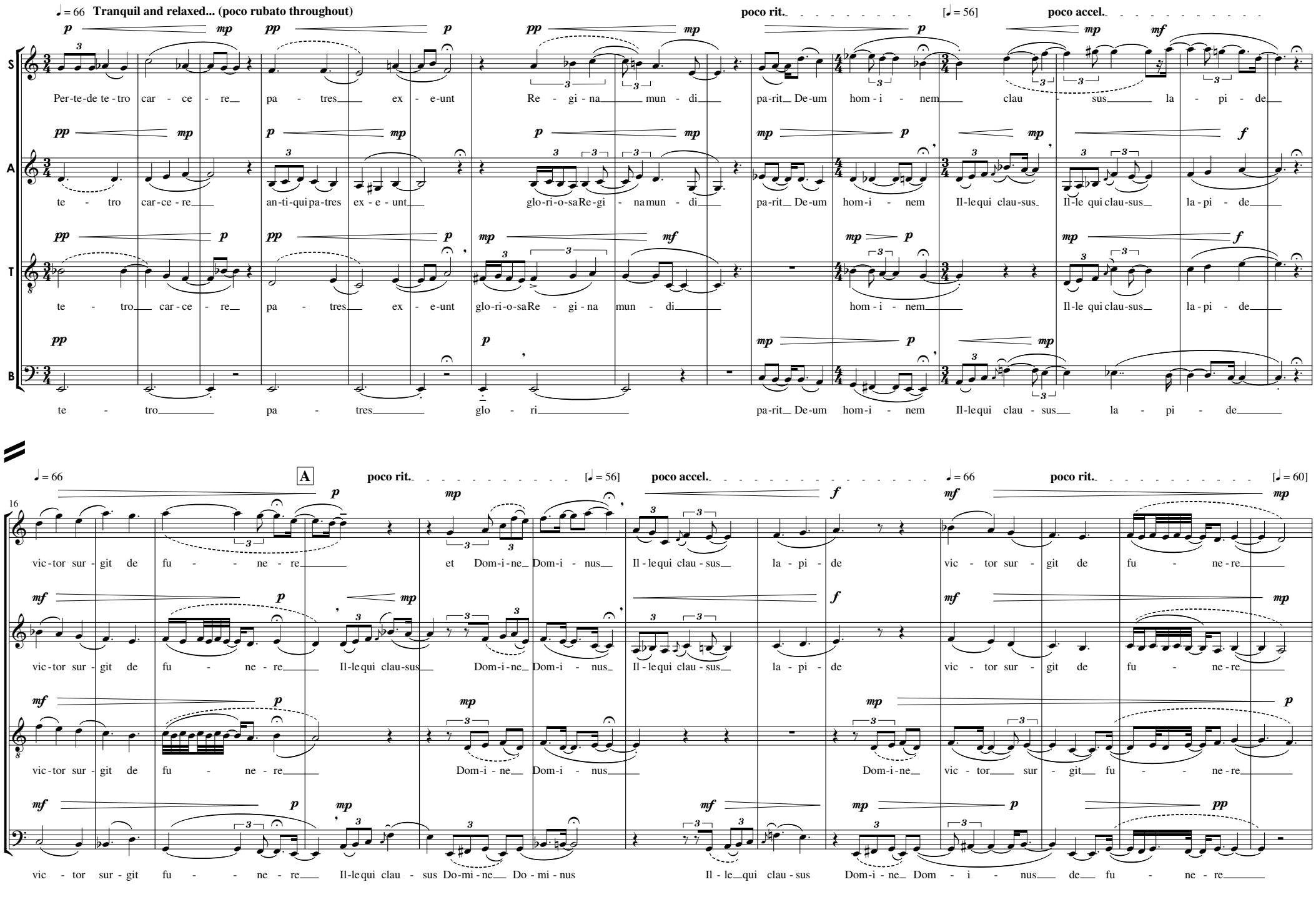
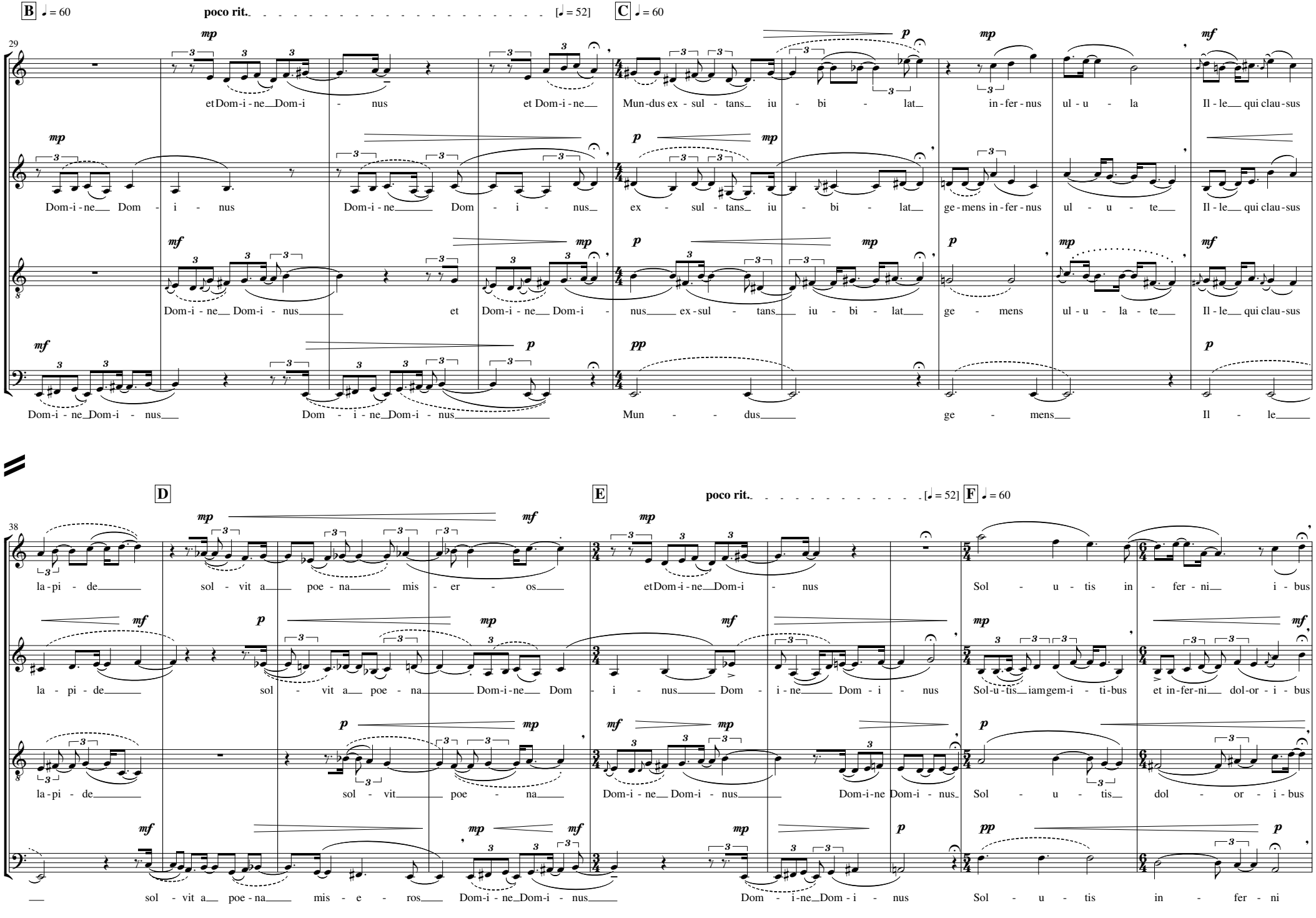
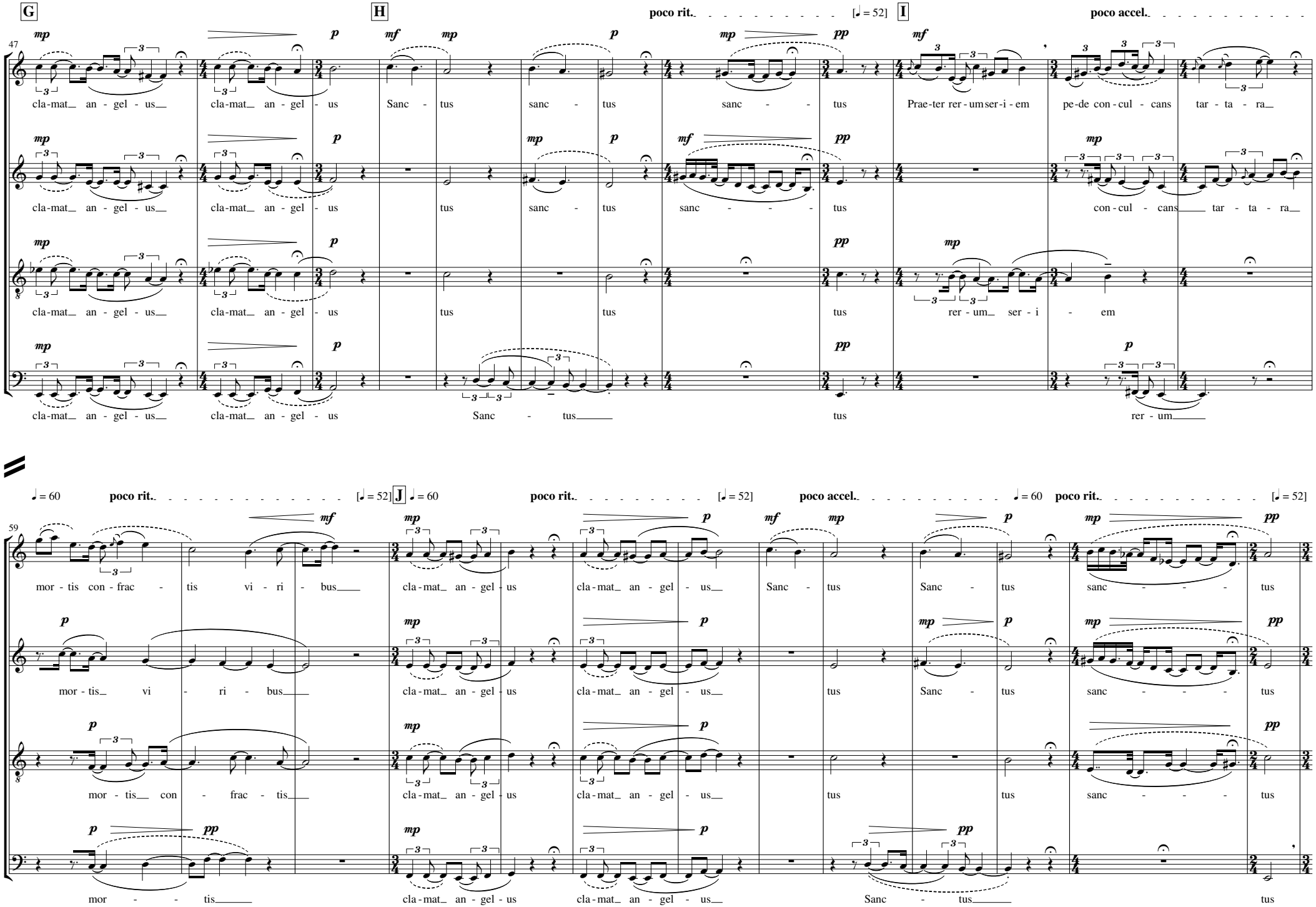
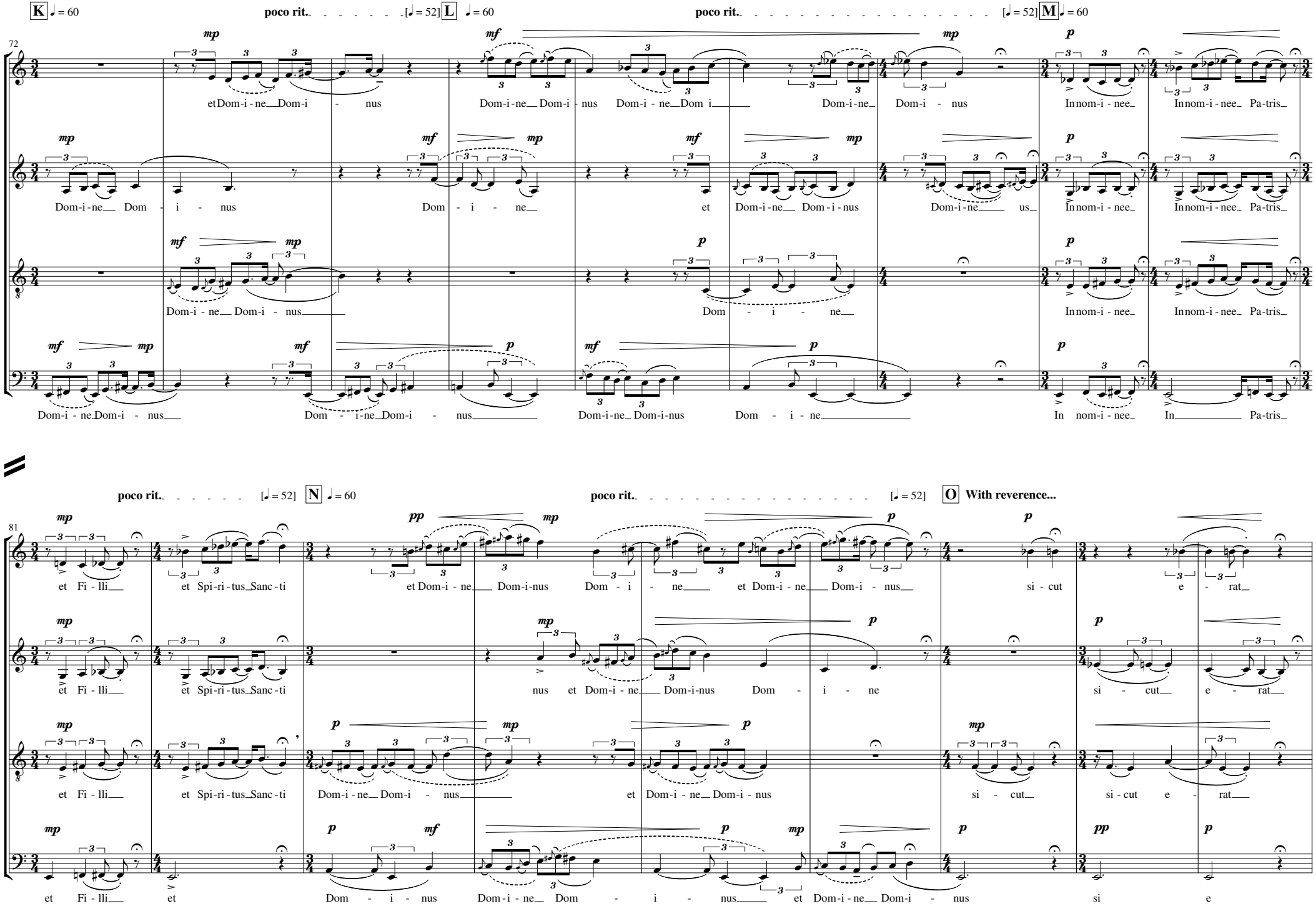
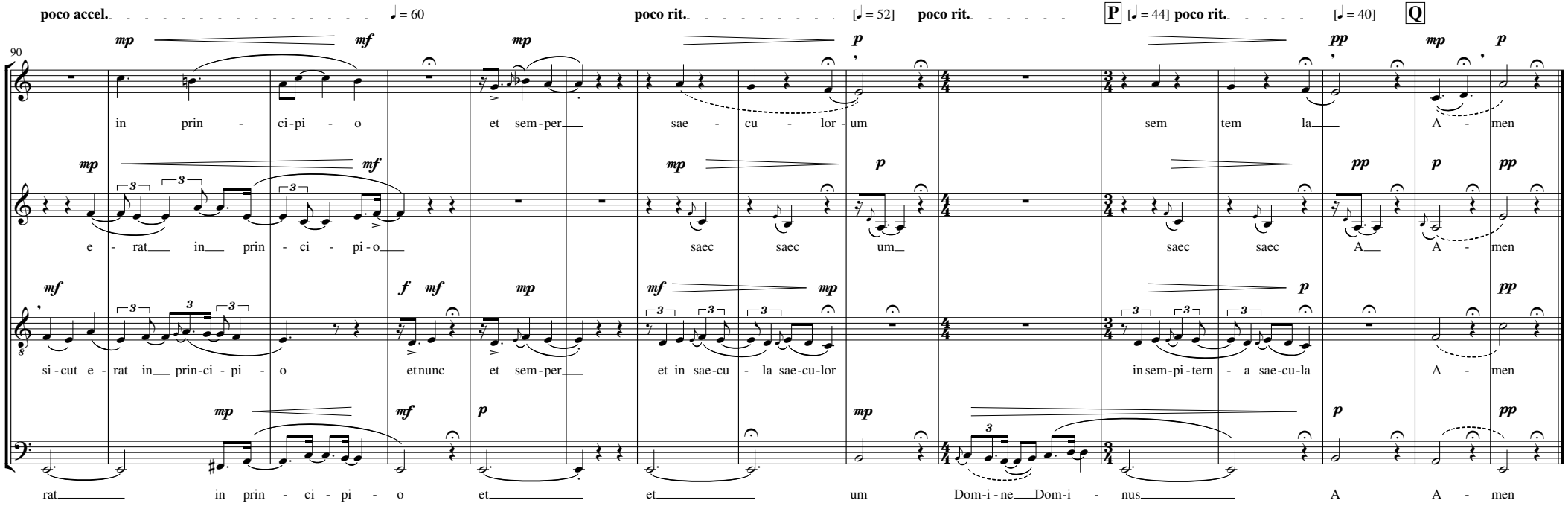



B ♩ = 60
poco rit. [♩ = 52]
C ♩ = 60
29
et Dom-i-ne Dom-i - nus et Dom-i-ne Mun-dus ex - sul - tans iu - bi - lat in-fer-nus ul - u - la Il - le qui clau-sus
Dom-i-ne Dom - i - nus Dom-i-ne Dom - i - nus ex - sul - tans iu - bi - lat ge-mens in-fer-nus ul - u - te Il - le qui clau-sus
Dom-i-ne Dom-i-nus et Dom-i-ne Dom-i - nus ex-sul - tans iu - bi - lat ge - mens ul - u - la - te Il - le qui clau-sus
Dom-i-ne Dom-i-nus Dom - i-ne Dom-i-nus Mun - dus ge - mens Il - le
D
E
poco rit. [♩ = 52]
F ♩ = 60
38
la-pi - de sol - vit a poe-na mis - er - os et Dom-i-ne Dom-i - nus Sol - u - tis in - fer-ni i - bus
la - pi - de sol - vit a poe - na Dom-i-ne Dom - i - nus Dom - i-ne Dom - i - nus Sol-u-tis iam gem-i - ti-bus et in-fer-ni dol-or - i - bus
la-pi - de sol - vit poe - na Dom-i-ne Dom-i-nus Dom-i-ne Dom-i-nus Sol - u - tis dol - or - i - bus
sol - vit a poe-na mis - e - ros Dom-i-ne Dom-i-nus Dom - i-ne Dom - i - nus Sol - u - tis in - fer - ni


G
H
poco rit.
[♩ = 52]
I
poco accel.
47
cla-mat an-gel-us
Sanc-tus
Prae-ter rer-um ser-i-em
pe-de con-cul-cans
tar-ta-ra
rer-um ser-i-em
♩ = 60
poco rit.
[♩ = 52]
J
poco accel.
59
mor-tis con-frac-tis vi-ri-bus
mor-tis vi-ri-bus
mor-tis con-frac-tis
mor-tis


K ♩ = 60
poco rit. [♩ = 52] L ♩ = 60
poco rit. [♩ = 52] M ♩ = 60
72
et Dom-i - ne Dom-i - nus
Dom-i-ne Dom-i - nus Dom-i - ne Dom i Dom-i-ne Dom-i - nus
In nom-i - nee In nom-i - nee Pa-tris
Dom-i - ne Dom - i - nus
Dom - i - ne
Dom-i - ne Dom-i - nus
Dom-i-ne Dom-i-nus Dom - i - ne
In nom-i - nee In nom-i - nee Pa-tris
Dom-i - ne Dom-i - nus
Dom - i-ne Dom-i - nus
Dom-i-ne Dom-i-nus Dom - i - ne
In nom-i - nee In Pa-tris
poco rit. [♩ = 52] N ♩ = 60
poco rit. [♩ = 52] O With reverence...
81
et Fi - lli et Spi-ri-tus Sanc-ti
et Dom-i - ne Dom-i-nus Dom - i - ne et Dom-i - ne Dom-i - nus
si - cut e - rat
et Fi - lli et Spi-ri-tus Sanc-ti
nus et Dom-i - ne Dom-i-nus Dom - i - ne
si - cut e - rat
et Fi - lli et Spi-ri-tus Sanc-ti
Dom-i - ne Dom-i - nus et Dom-i - ne Dom-i - nus
si - cut si - cut e - rat
et Fi - lli et Dom - i - nus Dom-i - ne Dom - i - nus et Dom-i - ne Dom-i - nus
si e


poco accel.
♩ = 60
poco rit.
[♩ = 52]
poco rit.
P
[♩ = 44]
poco rit.
[♩ = 40]
Q
90
in prin - ci-pi - o et sem-per sae - cu - lor - um sem tem la A - men
e - rat in prin - ci - pi-o saec saec um saec saec A A - men
si - cut e - rat in prin-ci - pi - o et nunc et sem-per et in sae-cu - la sae-cu-lor in sem-pi-tern - a sae-cu-la A - men
rat in prin - ci - pi - o et et um Dom-i - ne Dom-i - nus A A - men

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