

## EDITOR'S NOTES FOR *TANTUM ERGO REAL A 4 VOCES*

The text of the "Tantum Ergo" consists of the last two stanzas of "Pange lingua gloriosi corporis mysterium", a hymn written by Saint Thomas Aquinas (1225–1274) for the Feast of Corpus Christi. In Catholic liturgy, "Tantum Ergo" expresses the doctrine that the bread and wine are changed into the body and blood of Christ during the celebration of the Eucharist, and is sung at the Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament. In this rite, people worship Christ via the monstrance, a vessel placed on the Altar in church, with prayers, hymns and time for silent meditation. "Tantum Ergo" is usually sung before the Benediction when the priest blesses the congregation with the monstrance.

Eslava wrote a number of different musical settings for the "Tantum Ergo", including several versions with its melody based on the *Marcha Real* (the current Spanish National Anthem). I have already transcribed one such version (see [https://musescore.com/rebecca\\_rufin/tantum-ergo-sobre-la-marcha-real-therefore-so-great-set-to-the-spanish-national-anthem](https://musescore.com/rebecca_rufin/tantum-ergo-sobre-la-marcha-real-therefore-so-great-set-to-the-spanish-national-anthem) or <https://hilarioneslava.org/music/>), so almost decided to pass on this one. However, with its simpler instrumentation and voicings (it's for STBB, but you really could omit the Bass 2 part altogether in a pinch), I thought it was worth posting separately.

Tantum ergo Sacramentum Veneremur cernui: Et antiquum documentum Novo cedat ritui: Præstet fides supplementum Sensuum defectui.	Hence so great a Sacrament Let us venerate with heads bowed And let the old practice Give way to the new rite; Let faith provide a supplement For the failure of the senses.
Genitori, Genitoque Laus et Jubilatio, Salus, honor, virtus quoque Sit et benedictio: Procedenti ab utroque Compar sit laudatio. Amen.	To the Begetter and the Begotten, Be praise and jubilation, Hail, honor, virtue also, And blessing too: To the One proceeding from Both Let there be equal praise. Amen.