

Editor's Notes for *Memento, rerum Conditor*

Here we have a very early work by Hilarión Eslava, written in 1832 at the age of 25, soon after he became Master of the Chapel of the Cathedral of Sevilla. A digital copy of the manuscript score was provided by the Institución Colombina in Sevilla.

The lyrics consist of two verses from a larger hymn, "*Jesu Redemptor Omnium*", a 6th century hymn that is traditionally sung for Vespers during the Advent and Christmas season. There are several versions of this hymn, but the language here conforms to that provided in the Roman Breviary of 1632. The cover of the source manuscript indicates that Eslava composed this to commemorate Jesus's birth and circumcision.

Arranged for a double choir with accompaniment consisting of a small orchestra with organ obbligato, it is mostly in the form of an elaborate fugue. As is often the case with Eslava's works, very little was provided in the way of dynamic and tempo indications, leaving this piece very much open to the conductor's artistic interpretation.

Latin Lyrics	Poetic English Translation
Memento, rerum conditor, Nostri quod olim corporis, Sacrata ab alvo virginis Nascendo formam sumpseris.	Salvation's author, call to mind How, taking form of humankind, Born of a virgin undefiled, Thou in man's flesh becam'st a child.
Hunc astra, tellus, æquora, Hunc omne, quod cælo subest, Salutis auctorem novæ Novo salutat cantico.	Whence sky, and stars, and sea's abyss, And earth, and all that therein is, Shall still, with laud and carol meet, The Author of Thine advent greet.