

Editor's Notes for *Quicumque Certum Quæritis*

This beautiful hymn by Hilarión Eslava in honor of the Sacred Heart was transcribed from a manuscript, the scanned images of which were procured from the Catedral de Calahorra in La Rioja, Spain.

Celebration of the love of God has been a part of popular devotion since the early days of the Church, and a symbol of that love was the blood and water flowing from the wounded side of Christ as he hung on the cross. It was not until the 17th century, and the rise of a more tender approach to the humanity of Jesus, that devotion specifically to the Heart of Jesus began to emerge. A feast in honor of Jesus' Heart was first celebrated on August 31, 1670. The devotion gained rapidly in popularity due to a vision of French saint and mystic Margaret Mary Alacoque that occurred in 1675, according to which Jesus specifically asked for a feast of the Sacred Heart on the Friday after the octave of Corpus Christi—the celebration of the Body and Blood of Jesus. This requested feast was to be in reparation for the lack of gratitude people showed for the loving sacrifice that Jesus had made for them: the sacrifice observed in the Sacrament of the Eucharist.

This musically fairly simple hymn was likely written specifically for the Feast of the Sacred Heart but could also be used on other occasions. The date of this undated composition is unknown, but could be early in Eslava's life. In 1827, a 19-to-20-year-old Eslava spent a few months in Calahorra apprenticing with the master of the chapel at the city's cathedral, Francisco de Secanilla (1775-1832).

The source manuscript contained no tempo designations beyond the general "*Moderato*" tempo description and the initial piano (*p*) dynamic indicator at the beginning. However, I believed Eslava likely intended to have much more expression in performance, so I have added all other dynamic and tempo indications to demonstrate a possible interpretation. Anyone choosing to perform this piece could certainly interpret it differently.

Latin Lyrics	Poetic English Translation by Fr. E. Caswall (1849)
Quicumque certum quæritis Rebus levamen asperis: Seu culpa mordet anxia, Seu pæna vos premit comes.	All ye who seek a comfort sure In trouble and distress, Whatever sorrow vex the mind, Or guilt the soul oppress:
Auditis ut suavissimis Invitet omnes vocibus: Venite quos gravat labor Pemitque pondus criminum:	Ye hear how kindly he invites; Ye hear His words so blest: All ye that labor come to Me, And I will give you rest.
O Cor, voluptas Cælitum, Cor, fida spes mortalium, En hisce tracti vocibus, Ad te venimus supplices.	O Heart, Thou joy of Saints on high, Thou hope of sinners here, Attracted by those loving words To Thee I lift my prayer.
Tu nostra terge vulnera Ex te fluente sanguine Tu da novum cor omnibus Qui te gementes invocant.	Wash thou my wounds in that dear Blood, Which forth from Thee doth flow; New grace, new hope inspire, a new And better heart bestow.