

## Editor's Notes for CPE-230 *O Salutaris Hostia*

The lyrics of *O Salutaris Hostia* are from the last two verses of *Verbum Supernum*, one of the five Eucharistic Hymns written by St. Thomas Aquinas (1225-1274) at the request of Pope Urban IV (1261-1264) when the Pope first instituted the Feast of Corpus Christi in 1264. The prayer is still used today, often at exposition of the Blessed Sacrament. It has been set to music by many composers, and this is the second musical setting we have encountered by Hilarión Eslava.

This manuscript motet was kept at the music archive of the historic Convento de Santa Clara de Sevilla, and likely dates to Eslava's early years in Sevilla as master of the Chapel at the city's Cathedral, between 1832 and 1840, judging by the use of the early (Basque) spelling of his surname, *Eslaba*, on the cover of the score. The entire contents of the music archives from the Convento de Santa Clara were recently transferred for their preservation to the Biblioteca Histórica "Marqués de Valdecilla", at the Universidad Complutense de Madrid. We are indebted to the library's Director, Juan Manuel Lizarraga Echaide and his staff for availing this music to us.

Musically, this piece is scored for a women's chorus (either SSS or SSA) accompanied by organ. It includes two distinct sections that may be repeated (or not) as indicated in the score, to suit the necessary duration for the occasion of use.

Transcribed from a manuscript consisting of a conductor's score and the vocal parts, there was a part for a bass voice (written in the tenor C-clef) that was not included in the conductor's score. Upon examination, this part was nothing more than the 3<sup>rd</sup> Soprano (or Alto) section transposed to a lower octave. As it appears to have been added at a later date, and in our opinion does not blend well with the Soprano 1 and 2 parts, we decided to omit it from this transcription.

The dynamic indicators were sparse and sometimes conflicting in the source manuscript. In this transcription I have honored what was provided to the extent possible, but also added additional indications based on my musical judgment. Anyone who is performing this piece should therefore consult the source document if in doubt.

LATIN LYRICS	ENGLISH TRANSLATION
O! Salutaris Hostia Quæ cæli pandis ostium. Bella premunt hostilia; Da robur, fer auxilium.	O! Saving Victim opening wide The gate of heaven to all below. Our foes press on from every side; Thine aid supply, Thy strength bestow.