

Mary in Sacred Music



Totus tuus

Maria; Maria!

Totus tuus sum, Maria

Mater nostri

Redemptoris,

Virgo Dei, virgo pia,

Mater mundi Salvatoris.

Mary, O Mary!

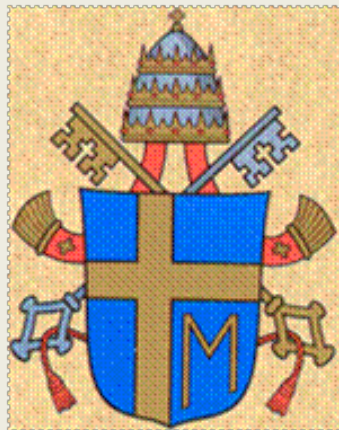
I am completely yours, Mary

Mother of our Redeemer,

Virgin of God, blessed

virgin,

*Mother of the Saviour of
the world.*



- Music by Henryk Górecki, 1987

Mary in Sacred Music



- her place in salvation
- liturgical & popular devotions since earliest times
- a precious legacy of prayer & thanksgiving

Sub tuum praesidium

- earliest recorded prayer to Mary



*We take refuge in your
loving care,
O Holy Mother of God.
Do not neglect our cries
for help in times of trial,
but save us from danger,
you who alone are truly
holy, truly blessed.*

- mid-3rdC, Greek

Singing our prayers

- Chant
 - the Jewish tradition
 - Eastern orthodox
 - Western catholic
- Choral music
- Congregational, folk & pop



Magnificat (1)

- **M**agnificat anima mea Dominum
- Et exultavit spiritus meus in Deo salutari meo
- Quia respexit humilitatem ancillae suae
- Ecce enim ex hoc beatam me dicent omnes generationes.
- *My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord*
- *And my spirit rejoices in God, my Saviour*
- *For he has looked with favour on the lowliness of his handmaid*
- *Behold, from henceforth all generations shall call me blessed.*

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Some examples to explore:

- **Annunciation:** Ave Maria
- **Visitation:** Magnificat
- **Nativity:** carols, hymns
- **Crucifixion:** Stabat Mater
- **Resurrection (& Assumption):** Regina caeli
- **Mary as advocate, mediator:** Salve Regina



Salve Regina



- *“Hail, Holy Queen,
Mother of Mercy”*
- tender devotional prayer
of praise & intercession
- dates from c. 1000AD
- frequently sung at
Vespers, Masses of BVM,
end of Rosary, requiems

Salve Regina (I)

Salve regina, mater
misericordiae

Vita, dulcedo et spes
nostra, salve.

Ad te clamamus, exules,
filii Evae

Ad te suspiramus,
gementes et flentes in hae
lacrymarum valle.

*Hail, Holy Queen, Mother of
Mercy;*

*Hail, our life, our sweetness
& our hope!*

*To you do we cry, poor
banished children of Eve.*

*To you do we send up our
sighs, mourning and weeping
in this vale of tears.*

Salve Regina (2)

Eia ergo, advocata nostra,
illos tuos misericordes
oculos ad nos converte.

Et Jesum, benedictum
fructum ventris tui, nobis
post exilium ostende.

O clemens, o pia,
o dulcis virgo Maria.

*Come then, our advocate,
turn your eyes of mercy
towards us.*

*And after our exile, lead us
to Jesus, the blessed fruit
of your womb.*

*O clement, o loving,
o sweet virgin Mary!*

Regina caeli

*O Queen of Heaven,
rejoice!*

- dates from c1100
- sung throughout Easter season to Pentecost and for the Assumption
- Popular in chant and polyphony



Regina caeli

REGINA caeli, laetare,
alleluia:

Quia quem meruisti
portare, alleluia,

Resurrexit sicut dixit,
alleluia.

Ora pro nobis Deum,
alleluia.

O QUEEN of heaven
rejoice! alleluia:

*For He whom thou
didst merit to bear,
alleluia,*

*Has risen as he said,
alleluia.*

*Pray for us to God,
alleluia.*

Ave Maria



‘Hail Mary, full of grace...’

- Mainly in Books of Hours, Rosary, as a bidding prayer or antiphon at Mass .
- NT part by itself till c1480.
- Intercession added, thanks to Savonarola & Council of Trent.
- In many forms & guises.

Ave Maria

- Ave Maria, gratia plena,
- Dominus tecum.
- Benedicta tu in mulieribus et benedictus fructus ventris tui, Jesus.
- Sancta Maria, Mater Dei, ora pro nobis peccatoribus
- nunc et in hora mortis nostrae. Amen
- *Hail Mary, full of grace,*
- *The Lord is with you.*
- *Blessed are you among women and blessed is the fruit of your womb, Jesus.*
- *Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners*
- *now and at the hour of our death. Amen*

Ave Maria

- Josquin
- Parsons
- Byrd
- Palestrina
- Bach/Gounod
- Schubert
- Bruckner
- Verdi
- Gorecki
- *Early polyphony, c 1490*
- *Marian motet, c 1553*
- *Recusant Catholic motet*
- *Counter Reformation motet*
- *18th C prelude + 19th C melody*
- *19th C transcription*
- *Sacred motet 1860s*
- *Operatic aria, late 19th C*
- *Auschwitz Commemoration*

Desdemona's prayer

Ave Maria, piena di grazia,
eletta fra le spose e le vergini
sei tu,
sia benedetto il frutto,
o Benedetta,
di tue materne viscere, Gesù.

Prega per chi, adorando te,
si prostra, prega pel peccator,
per l'innocente, e pel debole
oppresso e pel possente,
misero anch'esso, tua pietà
dimostra....

(from Verdi's Otello, Act IV)

*Hail Mary, full of grace,
blessed art thou amongst
wives and maids,
and blessed is the fruit,
o Blessed Lady, of thy
maternal womb, Jesu.*

*Pray for those who adore thee
on their knees, pray for the
sinner, for the innocent & for
those who are oppressed;
and to the powerful man, who
also grieves, show thy tender
compassion....*

Prayer to Mary

- scratched on wall of a Gestapo cell

Mamo,
nie placz, nie.
Niebios Przeczysta
Królowo
Ty zawsze wspieraj
mnie
Zdeowas Mario!

*Mother,
please do not cry, no!
Most chaste Queen of
Heaven
Come to my aid
always.
Hail Mary!*

- from Górecki's Symphony No.3 (1976) for the Auschwitz Memorial