

# Ave verum Corpus

(Jesus, Saviour, we behold thee)

14th-century Eucharistic hymn  
English version by John Rutter

W. A. MOZART (1756–91) K618  
Edited by John Rutter

**Adagio**

**SOPRANO ALTO**

**TENOR BASS**

**ORGAN**

*sotto voce*

A - ve, — a - ve ve - rum -  
Je - sus, — Sa - viour, we be -

*sotto voce*

**Adagio**

*sotto voce*

**Ped.**

6

Cor - pus na - tum De Ma - ri - a Vir - gi - ne: Ve - re  
- hold - thee, Ma - ry's Son in bread and wine re - vealed: Born - and

Mozart's manuscript of this much-loved motet bears the inscription 'Baaden 17 Juni 1791'. He wrote it for Anton Stoll, church choirmaster in the little spa town of Baden, near Vienna, while visiting his wife Constanze, who was taking the waters there. Its text, a hymn in honour of the Blessed Sacrament, sometimes ascribed to Pope Innocent VI (d. 1342), is appropriate to the feast of Corpus Christi, which in 1791 fell on 23 June. This was no doubt the occasion for the composition.

**Source:** facsimile of autograph manuscript. The vocal parts are written in open score, in SATB clefs. Original slurring, vocal and instrumental, is left unaltered in this edition (but crossed slurs are editorial). The accompaniment is for strings with organ continuo; the organ part shown here is a transcription of the string parts. Bass figuring, omitted here, is shown in the full score, which is available on rental from the publisher together with instrumental parts.

This motet is extracted from the Oxford Choral Classics anthology *European Sacred Music*, edited by John Rutter.

Approximate duration: 3 minutes

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