

# **O Columbia**

**for unaccompanied SATB voices (with divisions)**

**This version of the score includes a piano reduction for  
rehearsal only**

**Ken Johnston**

*O Columba* was commissioned by the Scottish choir, Cadenza, with subsidy from the Scottish Arts Council. The piece was composed in honour of Cadenza's 10th anniversary for a first performance on August 16, 2003.

Both the Latin text and the basic melodic ideas are derived from fragments of plainchant found in a manuscript known as the *Inchcolm Antiphoner*.

This manuscript was most probably written on the island of Inchcolm in the Firth of Forth, either at the end of the 13th century or the beginning of the 14th, and the surviving fragments are now preserved in the library of Edinburgh University.

The music celebrates the Feast of St. Columba (June 9th).

Below are the three fragments of plainchant that form the basis of *O Columba* (in the order that they are used in the piece), and following that is the complete text with translation.

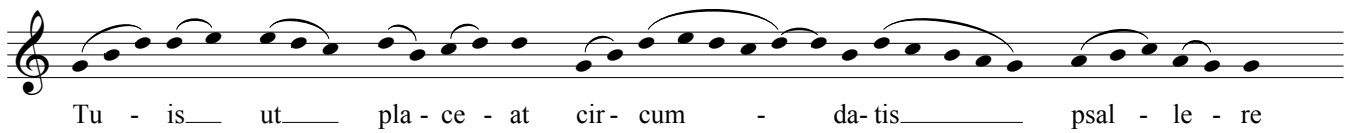
*Fragment no. 1*

Au - ro - ra ru - ti - lat lu - cis pre - nun - ci - a  
 le - tos nos ex - ci - tat a somp - no - len - ci - a  
 vo - len - tes ce - le - bre fes - tum re - co - le - re  
 Col - um - be ve - ne - ra - bi - lis

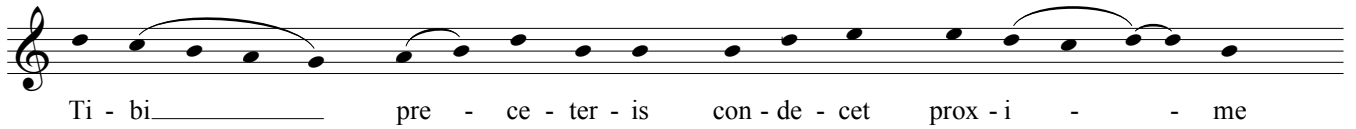
After this first fragment there are two further stanzas of text, beginning *Qui fuit humilis.....* and *Columbe merita.....*. Both stanzas use the same melody as above.

*Fragment no. 2*

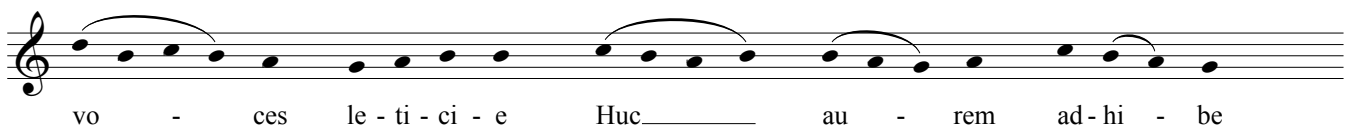
O Col - um - ba in - sig - nis sig - ni - fer  
 men - tes mun - da ne fal - lens pes - ti - fer  
 ser - vis of - fi - ci - at ma - ris dis - cri - mi - ne



Tu - is ut pla - ce - at cir - cum - da - tis psal - le - re

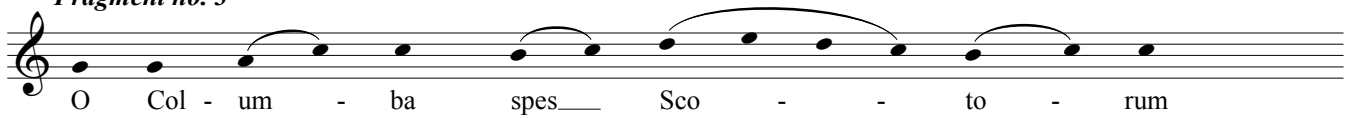


Ti - bi pre - ce - ter - is con - de - cet prox - i - me



vo - ces le - ti - ci - e Huc au - rem ad - hi - be

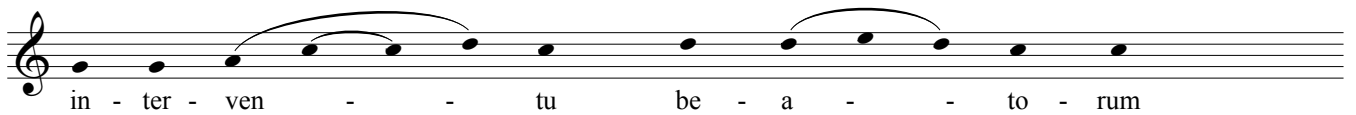
*Fragment no. 3*



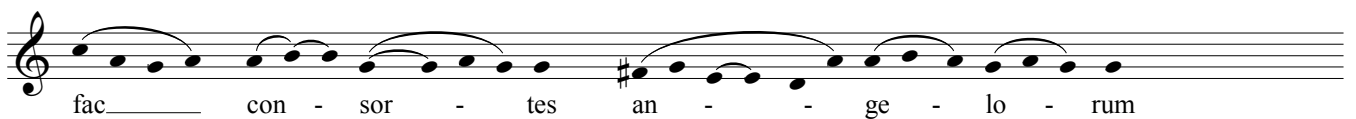
O Col - um - ba spes Sco - to - rum



nos tuo - rum me - ri - to - rum



in - ter - ven - tu be - a - to - rum



fac con - sor - tes an - ge - lo - rum

**O Columba**  
Text and translation

<p>Aurora rutilat lucis prenuncia: letos nos excitat a sompnolencia, volentes celebre festum recolere Columbe venerabilis.</p>	<p>The dawn, the herald of light, glows red. She wakes us gladly from our sleep, wishing to devote ourselves again to the celebrated feast of venerable Columba.</p>
<p>Qui fuit humilis, mitis, affabilis, vultu vir hilaris, vir venerabilis, ortu vir nobilis, vir statu stabilis, corpore castus et mente.</p>	<p>He was humble, gentle, friendly, a man with a cheerful face, a man to be revered, a man of noble birth, a steadfast man, pure in body and mind.</p>
<p>Columbe merita et signa singula, facta prophetica, clara miracula, vel dictis dicere vel scriptis scribere, nemo novit totaliter.</p>	<p>No one has fully learned either to put into words or to describe in writing the merits of Columba and each one of his signs, his prophetic deeds and miracles revealed.</p>
<p>O Columba insignis signifer, mentes munda ne fallens pestifer servis officiat maris discrimine. Tuis ut placeat circumdatis psallere.</p>	<p>Columba, illustrious standard-bearer, cleanse our minds for fear that the deceitful destroyer harms your servants with danger from the sea, so that it may please those around you to sing psalms.</p>
<p>Tibi preceteris condecet proxime voces leticie. Huc aurem adhibe</p>	<p>It is fitting that voices of joy be closest to you above all others. Listen to our pleas.</p>
<p>O Columba spes Scotorum nos tuorum meritorum interventu beatorum fac consortes angelorum.</p>	<p>Columba, hope of the Scots, make us consorts of the blessed angels by the assistance of your services.</p> <p>Translation by F Robson</p>

# O Columba

for unaccompanied SATB voices (with divisions)

Ken Johnston

Slow, unaccented ♩ = 56

S Au-ro-ra ru-ti-lat\_

A Au-ro-ra Au-ro-ra Au-ro-ra

Piano (rehearsal only)

7

S lu-cis pre-nun-ci-a, le-tos nos ex-ci-

A

13

S -tat a somp-no-len-ci-a, vo-len-tes ce-le-bre

A

19

S  
fes - tum re - co - le - re Col - um - be

A

3 3 3 3

4/4 3/4 4/4 4/4



24

S  
ve - ne - ra - bi - lis.

A  
ve - ne - ra - bi - lis.

T  
Au - ro - ra Au - ro - ra

B  
div.  
Au - ro - ra Au - ro - ra

pp pp pp pp

pp pp pp pp

4/4 4/4 4/4 4/4

30 *p* (slightly stronger top part)

S  
*pp*  
 Qui fu - it hu - mi - lis, mi - tis, af - fa - bi - lis, vul - tu vir

A  
*pp*

T  
 Qui fu - it hu - mi - lis, mi - tis, af - fa - bi - lis, vul - tu vir

B

Piano reduction

35

S  
*mp*  
*p*  
 hi - la - ris, vir ve - ne - ra - bi - lis, or - tu vir no - bi - lis,

A  
*p*

T  
*p*  
 hi - la - ris, vir ve - ne - ra - bi - lis, or - tu vir no - bi - lis,

B  
*p*  
 unis.

Piano reduction

40

S  
vir sta-tu sta - bi - lis, cor - po - re cas- tus et men-

A  
vir sta-tu sta - bi - lis, cor - po - re cas- tus et men-

T  
vir sta-tu sta - bi - lis, cor - po - re cas- tus et men-

B  
vir sta-tu sta - bi - lis, cor - po - re cas- tus et men-

46

**A little faster** ♩ = 64

S  
te.

A  
Col - um - be me -

T  
te. Col - um - be Col - um - be Col - um - be me - ri - ta

B  
Col - um - be Col - um - be Col - um - be me - ri - ta

**A little faster**

51

*mp cresc.*

S fac - ta pro - phe - ti - ca, cla - ra mi - ra -

A - ri - ta et sig - na sin - gu - la, *cresc.* fac - ta pro - phe - ti - ca, cla - ra

T et sig - na sin - gu - la, *cresc.* fac - ta pro - phe - ti - ca, cla - ra mi - ra -

B *cresc.*



56

S - cu - la, *f* vel dic - tis di - ce - re vel scrip - tis scri - be - re, —

A mi - ra - cu - la, *f div.* vel dic - tis di - ce - re vel scrip - tis scri - be - re, —

T - cu - la, *f* vel dic - tis di - ce - re vel scrip - tis scri - be - re, —

B *f* *div.*

63

S *mp* ne - mo - no - vit to - tal - i - - ter. *rit.*

A *mp* *unis.* ne - mo no - vit to - tal - i - - ter.

T *mp* ne - mo no - vit to - tal - i - - ter.

B *mp* *unis.*

70 **Tempo primo** ♩ = 56 *div. p* Col - um - ba Col - um - ba **A little faster** ♩ = 64 *mp* O Col -

A *div. p* Col - um - ba Col - um - ba *mp* *unis.* O Col -

T *div. p* Col - um - ba Col - um - ba *mp* *unis.* O Col -

B *div. p* Col - um - ba Col - um - ba *mp* O Col -

**Tempo primo** *p* **A little faster** *mp*

75

S *unis.* *3* um - ba in - sig - nis *cresc.*

A um - ba in - sig - nis sig - *cresc.*

T *8* um - ba in - sig - nis sig - *cresc.*

B um - ba in - sig - nis sig - *cresc.* *unis.*

*cresc.*

79

S sig - ni - fer, men - tes *p*

A - - ni - fer, men - tes mun - da ne *p*

T - - ni - fer, men - tes mun - da ne fal - *p*

B - - ni - fer, men - tes mun - da ne *p*

*p*

84

S  
mun - da - ne - fal - lens - pes - - ti - fer

A  
fal - lens - pes - - ti - fer ser - vis - of - fi -

T  
lens - pes - - ti - fer ser - vis - of - fi - ci - -

B  
fal - lens - pes - - ti - fer

*cresc. molto*

89

S  
ser - - vis - of - fi - ci - - at

A  
- ci - - at ma - ris -

T  
- at ma - ris - dis - cri - mi -

B  
ser - vis - of - fi - ci - - at ma -

*f*

93 *dim. molto* **rit.** *p* **Light, rhythmical** ♩ = 136 *mp*

S ma - - ris dis - cri - mi - ne. Tu - is ut pla -

A *dim. molto* *p* dis - cri - mi - - ne.

T *dim. molto* *p* ne.

B *dim. molto* *p* - ris dis - cri - mi - - ne.

*dim. molto* **rit.** *p* **Light, rhythmical** *mp*

98 *mp* - ce - at tu - is ut pla - ce - at

A *mp* Tu - is ut pla - ce - at tu - is ut pla -

T *mp* Tu - is ut pla - ce - at tu - is

B *mp* Tu - is ut pla - ce - at

104

S tu - is ut pla - ce - at tu - is ut pla -

A - ce - at tu - is ut pla - ce - at

T ut pla - ce - at tu - is ut pla - ce - at

B tu - is ut pla - ce - at tu - is

110

S - ce - at cir - cum - - da - tis

A tu - is ut pla - ce - at cir - cum - - da - tis

T cir - cum - - da - tis psal - le -

B ut pla - ce - at cir - cum - da - tis psal -

116

S  
psal - le - re

A  
psal - le - re *mf cresc.* cir - cum -

T  
8 - re cir - cum - da - tis psal - le -

B  
- le - re cir - cum - da - tis

*mf cresc.*



122

S *mf cresc.* cir - cum - da - tis psal - le - re.  $\frac{3}{4}$

A - da - tis psal - le - re.  $\frac{3}{4}$

T 8 re *cresc.* cir - cum - da - tis psal - le -  $\frac{3}{4}$

B *cresc.* cir - cum - da - tis psal - le -  $\frac{3}{4}$

$\frac{3}{4}$

128 **Slower, legato** ♩ = 96

S Ti - bi pre - cet - er - is ti - bi

A Ti - bi pre - cet - er - is ti - bi

T re. Ti - bi pre - cet - er - is

B re. Ti - bi pre - cet - er -

**Slower, legato**

134 **rit.** *dim.* **Slower** ♩ = 64

S pre - cet - er - is

A pre - cet - er - is

T ti - bi pre - cet - er - is

B is ti - bi pre - cet - er - is

**rit.** *dim.* **Slower**

**Sustained, legato**

140 *mp* *div.* *unis.* *3*

S O Col - um - ba

A *mp* *cresc.* O Col - um - ba in - sig -

T *mp* *div.* *8* *unis.* *3* O Col - um - ba in -

B *mp* *div.* *8* O Col - um - ba *unis.* *3* in - sig -

**Sustained, legato**

*mp* *cresc.*

**Light, rhythmical, 2 in the bar**  $\text{♩} = 78$

144 *cresc.*

S in - sig - nis\_ sig - ni - fer,

A *mp* nis\_ sig - - ni - fer, con - de - cet\_ prox - i - me

T *8* -sig - nis\_ sig - - ni - fer,

B nis\_ sig - - ni - fer,

**Light, rhythmical, 2 in the bar**

*mp*

150

A vo - ces le - ti - ci - e vo - ces vo - ces

B con - de - cet prox - i - me

156

A vo - ces vo - ces vo - ces vo - ces le - ti -

B vo - ces le - ti - ci - e vo - ces

161

A - ci - e con - de - cet prox - i - me

T con - de - cet prox - i - me

B vo - ces vo - ces vo - ces vo - ces vo - ces

166

S  
con - de - cet prox -

A  
vo - ces le - ti - ci - e

T  
vo - ces le - ti - ci - e vo - ces

B  
vo - ces vo - ces le - ti - ci - e

*mp*  
*p*

170

S  
i - me vo - ces le -

A  
vo - ces vo - ces vo - ces vo -

T  
vo - ces vo - ces vo - ces vo - ces

B  
con - de - cet prox - i - me

*mp*  
*p*

174

S ti - ci - e\_ vo - ces\_ vo - ces\_ vo - - ces

A ces\_ vo - ces\_ vo - - ces\_ le -

T vo - ces\_ vo - - ces\_ le - ti - ci - e\_

B vo - - ces\_ le - ti - ci - e\_ le -

*poco cresc.*

178

S le - ti - ci - e\_ vo - ces\_ con - de - cet\_

A ti - ci - e\_ vo - ces\_ le - ti - ci - e\_

T vo - ces\_ le - ti - ci - e\_ vo - ces\_ le -

B ti - ci - e\_ le - ti - ci - e\_ le - ti - ci - e\_

*mf*

183

S  
— prox - i - me vo - ces vo - ces *dim.*

A  
vo - ces vo - ces *dim.*

T  
ti - ci - e vo - ces vo - ces *dim.*

B  
vo - ces vo - ces *dim.*

*dim.*



190 **poco rit.** **rit.**

S  
vo - ces vo - ces. **p**

A  
vo - ces vo - ces. **p**

T  
vo - ces vo - ces. **p**

B  
vo - ces vo - ces. **p**

**poco rit.** **rit.** **p**

198 **Slow, sustained** ♩ = 60

S *p* Huc au - - - rem ad -

A *p* Huc au - - - rem ad -

T *p* Huc au - - - rem ad -

B *p* Huc au - - - rem ad -

**Slow, sustained**

207

S *poco cresc.* unis. - hi - be huc au - rem ad - hi -

A *poco cresc.* - hi - be huc au - rem ad -

T *poco cresc.* - hi - be huc au - rem ad - hi -

B unis. *poco cresc.* - hi - be huc au - rem ad

*poco cresc.*

215

S *dim.* be huc au - rem *pp molto cresc.*

A *dim.* hi - be huc au - *pp molto cresc.*

T *dim.* - - be huc au - - - *pp molto cresc.*

B *dim.* hi - - be huc au - *pp molto cresc.*

223

S ad - hi - be huc au - rem ad - *f*

A rem ad - hi - be huc au - rem ad - *f*

T rem ad - hi - be huc au - rem ad - *f*

B - rem ad - hi - be huc au - rem ad - *f*

231

S - hi - be huc au - -

A - hi - be huc au - -

T - hi - be huc au -

B hi - be huc au - -

*cresc.* *ff* *ff* *ff*

239

S - - - - rem ad - hi - be

A - - - - rem ad - hi - be

T - - - - rem ad - hi - be

B - - - - rem ad - hi - be

*poco dim.* *f* *f* *f*

247 *rit.* *sub.p* **Tempo primo** ♩ = 56

S ad - - hi - be.

A ad - - hi - be.

T ad - - hi - be. *pp* O Col - um - ba

B ad - - hi - be. *pp*

*rit.* *sub.p* **Tempo primo** *pp*

254 *mp*

S sopranos div. O Col - um - ba spes Sco - to - rum

S *pp* O Col - um - ba

A *pp* O Col - um - ba

A *pp* O Col - um - ba

T O Col - um - ba O Col - um - ba O Col - um - ba

B

259

*pp*

S ah

S ah

A ah

*mp*

A nos tuo - rum me - ri - to - rum

T O Col - um - ba O Col - um - ba

B

264

*mp*  
S in - ter - ven - tu be - a - to - rum  
S in - ter - ven - tu  
A in - ter - ven - tu  
A *pp*  
in - ter - ven - tu  
T in - ter - ven - tu O Col - um - ba  
B

269

*pp*

S fah

*mp*

S fac con - sor - tes

A fah

A fah

T O Col - um - ba

B

273

**A little slower** *p* **rit.**

A unis. altos an - ge - lo - rum.

T O Col - um - ba

B

**A little slower** *p* **rit.**