

Cantique de Jean Racine

Jean Racine (17th Century)
English trans. Curtis Hanson

Canticle of Jean Racine, Op. 11
for SSAA voices and piano or organ

Gabriel Fauré (1845-1924)
ed. Curtis Hanson

The original French text is an interpretation of a medieval Latin hymn, "Consorts paterni luminis", by the 17th century dramatist, Jean Racine. When Fauré set Racine's words to music, he gave it the title "Cantique de Jean Racine" rather than the title of the original Latin lyric. The Latin hymn, attributed to St. Ambrose (340-397 AD), with a rough English translation, is as follows:

Consorts paterni luminis, lux ipse lucis et dies,
noctem canendo rumpimus: assiste postulantibus.

Father of light, the light of the light, equal of the day
and of the night, assist we postulants with our singing.

Aufer tenebras mentium, fuga catervas daemonum,
expelle somnolentiam ne pigritantes obruat.

From the darkness of our minds, cast out the demons,
and drive away the sleepiness which overwhelms us.

Sic, Christe, nobis omnibus indulgeas credentibus,
ut prosit exorantibus quod praecinentes psallimus.

O Christ, grant that we believers should benefit
from the prayers we raise to you.

Sit, Christe, rex piissime, tibi Patrique gloria
cum Spiritu Paraclito in sempiterna saecula. Amen.

Let there be, O Christ, our loving King, glory to you with
the Father and the Holy Spirit, forever and ever. Amen.

Andante ♩ = 80

Piano or Organ

p *simile* *f* *p*

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13 *soprano 2 / alto 2* ***p***

O Word of God, most high, in
Ver - be - é - gal au Très - Haut, no -

16

whom, a - lone, we hope and trust, e - ter - nal -
tre_u - ni - que_es - pé - ran - ce, jour é - ter -

19 ***p***

we
nous

day
nel

of
de - la

heav'n
ter - and
relet - des

earth,
cieux; we
nous

p

On
De

this
la

most
pai - si - ble

night,
nuit, we
nous

day
nel

of
de - la

heav'n
ter - and
re.et - des

earth,
cieux; we
nous

22

break rom - pons le the si - len - lence, ce, di - vine Sav -
rom - pons le the si - len - lence, ce, Di - vine Sav -
break rom - pons le the si - len - lence, ce, di - vine Sav -
rom - pons le the si - len - lence, ce, Di - vine Sav -

25 *cresc.*

ior, veur, up jét - on te us sur cast nous your les eyes, yeux, di -
cresc. ior, veur, up jét - on te us sur cast nous your les eyes, yeux, Di -
cresc. ior, veur, up jét - on te us sur cast nous your les eyes, yeux, di -
ior, veur, up jét - on te us sur cast nous your les eyes, yeux, Di -

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28

f *p*

vine Sav - ior, up - on us cast
vin Sau - veur, jét - te sur nous your
les

f *p*

vine Sav - ior, up - on us cast
vin Sau - veur, jét - te sur nous your
les

f *p*

vine Sav - ior, up - on us cast
vin Sau - veur, jét - te sur nous your
les

f *p*

vine Sav - ior, up - on us cast
vin Sau - veur, jét - te sur nous your
les

f *p*

31

eyes!
yeux!

eyes!
yeux!

eyes!
yeux!

eyes!
yeux!

34

Musical score for measures 34-36. It features four vocal staves (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) and a piano accompaniment. The vocal parts are mostly silent, indicated by horizontal lines. The piano accompaniment consists of a treble and bass clef staff with a complex melodic line in the treble and a simpler bass line. The key signature has three flats and the time signature is 4/4.

37

Musical score for measures 37-39. It features four vocal staves and a piano accompaniment. The vocal parts enter in measure 37 with the lyrics "O Ré -". The piano accompaniment continues with a similar melodic pattern. The key signature and time signature remain the same as in the previous system.

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40

pour on us the fire of your grace — ce so
pands sur nous le feu de ta grâ - ce puis -

pour on us the fire of your grace — ce so
pands sur nous le feu de ta grâ - ce puis -

pour on us the fire of your grace — ce so
pands sur nous le feu de ta grâ - ce puis -

pour on us the fire of your grace — ce so
pands sur nous le feu de ta grâ - ce puis -

43

might - y, that all of hell, that hell may
san - ie, que tout l'en fer, que tout l'en -

might - y, that all of hell, that hell may
san - ie, que tout l'en fer, que tout l'en -

might - y, that all of hell, that hell may
san - ie, que tout l'en fer, que tout l'en -

might - y, that all of hell, that hell may
san - ie, que tout l'en fer, que tout l'en -

cresc.

46

flee — fer — fuie at au the son sound de of your ta voix; dis di - pell si - the pe

flee — fer — fuie at au the son sound de of your ta voix; dis di - pell si - the pe

flee — fer — fuie at au the son sound de of your ta voix; dis di - pell si - the pe

flee — fer — fuie at au the son sound de of your ta voix; dis di - pell si - the pe

sub. p

p

sub. p

p

sub. p

49

slum - ber of a wear - y soul so yearn - ing, le som - meil d'une à - me lan - guis san - te,

slum - ber a soul so yearn - ing, le som - meil lan - guis san - te,

slum - ber of a wear - y soul lan - so yearn - ing, which le som - meil d'une à - me lan - guis san - te, qui

slum - ber a soul so yearn - ing, le som - meil lan - guis san - te,

mf

mf

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52 *mf*

which thus leads us to for - get your
 qui la con - duit à l'ou - bli de tes

mf

which thus leads us to for - get your
 qui la con - duit à l'ou - bli de tes

thus leads us to for - get your
 la con - duit à l'ou - bli de tes

mf

which thus leads us to for - get your
 qui la con - duit à l'ou - bli de tes

55 *f*

laws, which thus leads
 lois, qui la con -

f

laws, which thus leads
 lois, qui la con -

f

laws, which thus leads us to for -
 lois, qui la con - duit à l'ou -

f

laws, which thus leads us to for -
 lois, qui la con - duit à l'ou -

58

us *dui* to for - get your laws!
à l'ou - bli de tes lois!

p

us *dui* to for - get your laws!
à l'ou - bli de tes lois!

p

O Christ, look with
O Christ, sois fa - vo -

get bli de your tes laws!
get bli de your tes lois!

p

get bli de your tes laws!
get bli de your tes lois!

p

O Christ, look with
O Christ, sois fa - vo -

61

fa - vor up - on your faith - ful peo - ple as -
ra - ble à ce peu - ple fi - dèle pour

fa - vor up - on your faith - ful peo - ple as -
ra - ble à ce peu - ple fi - dèle pour

64

sem te - bled bé - here nir now main - te - praise nant ras - your sem -

Re - ceive the hymns we qu'il

Re - ceive the hymns we qu'il

sem te - bled bé - here nir now main - te - praise nant ras - your sem -

67

Re - ceive the hymns we of - fer to

Re - ceive our ta hymns glo - re

of - fer to à your ta glo - ry, re

name. blé. Re - ceive the hymns we of - fer à to your gloi

70 *cresc.* *f*

your im - mor - tal glo - ry, then let us re -
 ta gloi - relim - mor - tel - le et de tes re -

cresc. *f*

im - mor - tal glo - ry, then let us re -
 im - mor - tel - le et de tes re -

cresc. *f*

im - mor - tal glo - ry, then let us re -
 im - mor - tel - le et de tes re -

cresc. *f*

im - mor - tal glo - ry, then let us re -
 re - im - mor - tel - le et de tes re -

cresc. *f*

73 *sub. p*

turn qu'il ful - filled with your grace, then
 dons qu'il re - filled tour - ne com - blé, et

sub. p

turn qu'il ful - filled with your grace, then
 dons qu'il re - filled tour - ne com - blé, et *sub. p*

sub. p

turn qu'il ful - filled with your grace, then
 dons qu'il re - filled tour - ne com - blé, et *sub. p*

sub. p

turn qu'il ful - filled with your grace, then
 dons qu'il re - filled tour - ne com - blé, et

sub. p

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76

let us re - turn, ful -
de tes re - turn, com -
don's qu'il re - turn
tour - ne

79

filled! Then
blé! Et
filled! Then
blé! Et
filled! Then
blé! Et

82

pp

let de us tes re - turn dons ful qu'il re -

pp

let de us tes re - turn dons ful qu'il re -

pp

let de us tes re - turn dons ful qu'il re -

pp

let de us tes re - turn dons ful qu'il

pp

86

rit.

filled tour - - - with ne your com - grace! blé!

rit.

filled tour - - - with ne your com - grace! blé!

rit.

filled tour - - - with ne your com - grace! blé!

rit.

filled tour - - - with ne your com - grace! blé!

rit.