

Laudes Organi – text and translation

Laudes Organi

*Audi chorum organicum
Instrumentum musicum
Modernorum artificum
Documentum melicum
Canentem ludere amabiliter
Ludentem canere laudabiliter
Docens brevitate, leniter
Utiliter, dulciter, humiliter
Ideo persuadeo hic attendere
jubeo commoneo haec appendere
mentifigere humiliter.*

*Musice! Milites te habilitas
Usum exercites artem usites
Habilem corpore te prebeas*

Facilem pectore te exhibeas

*Follibus provideas
Bene flautas habeas
Istare praetereas
Diligenter caveas
His prae habitis
Sonum elice
Doctis digitis
Modum perfice
Neumis placitis.*

*Gravis chorus succinat
qui sonorus buccinat
vox acute concinat
choro chorus succinat
diafonico modo et organico.
Nunc acutas moveas
nunc ad graves redeas
modo lyrico
nunc per voces medias
transvolando salias,
saltu melico
manu mobili,
delectabili, cantabili.*

*Tali modulo,
mellis aemulo
placens populo;
qui miratur
et laetatur
et cantatur
et laudatur
Deo sedula
qui regnat in saecula.*

*Huius artis praeceptorum
secum Deus det Guidoni
Vitam aeternalem.*

Fiat Amen.

Listen to the chorus of the pipes
The musical instrument
The melodious proof
of modern skills,
Singing admirably through playing,
playing admirably through singing.
Leading concisely, gently
profitably, sweetly, humbly.
So I advise you to stand still here
and ask you urgently to listen to it
with humble attention.

Music! May you even use soldiers and
armies in the cause of art.
By your appearance, show yourself easy
to master;
By your character, reveal yourself easy
to accomplish.
May you give us the lungs
to control our breath well;
May your influence spread abroad,
diligently fostered.
Using these qualities,
coax a tune
from nimble fingers
perfect a melody
with pleasing sounds.

The chorus sings with deep tone,
sonorous like a trumpet call;
the high sounds ring forth;
one chorus resounding with another
in discord and harmony.
Now ring out the high notes
now return to the low ones
in a lyrical melody;
Now, through the middle registers,
soar like lightning
in a melodious leap
of your agile hand,
pleasing and tuneful.

With such a melody,
sweet as honey,
you please your audience
who marvel
and rejoice
and sing
and praise
and serve God
who rules in eternity.

To the master of this art
may God, to Guido*,
grant eternal life.

So be it, Amen.

*Guido d'Arezzo