

O Unity of threefold light

Melody from Este's Psalter, 1592

Old 22nd
CMD

The musical score is written for a grand staff (treble and bass clefs) in a 4/4 time signature with a key signature of two flats (B-flat and E-flat). The piece consists of 22 measures, divided into four systems of five measures each. Measure numbers 5, 10, 15, and 20 are indicated above the treble clef staff. The music features a mix of chords and moving lines, with some measures containing triplets or other rhythmic groupings. The final measure of each system ends with a fermata over the final note.

O Unity of threefold light,
Send out Thy loveliest ray,
Add scatter our transgressions' night,
And turn it into day;
Make us those temples pure and fair
Thy glory loveth well,
The spotless tabernacles, where
Thou may'st vouchsafe to dwell.

And yet Thyself they cannot know,
Nor pierce the veil of light
That hides Thee from the thrones below,
As in profoundest night.
How then can mortal accents frame
Due tribute to their king?
Thou, only, while we praise Thy name,
Forgive us as we sing.

The glorious hosts of peerless might,
That ever see Thy face,
Thou mak'st the mirrors of Thy light,
The vessels of Thy grace.
Thou, when their wondrous strains they weave,
Hast pleasure in the lay:
Deign thus our praises to receive,
Albeit from lips of clay.

Metrophanes of Smyrna