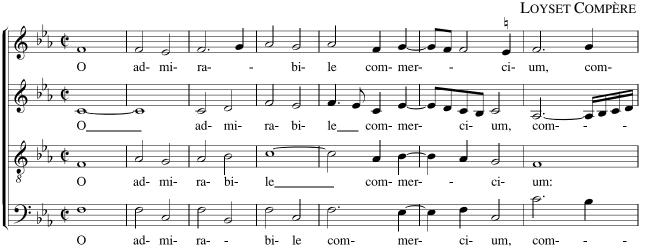
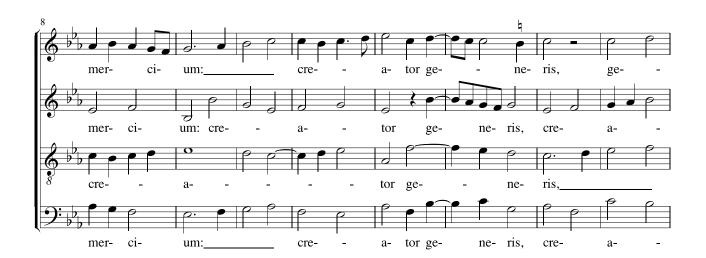
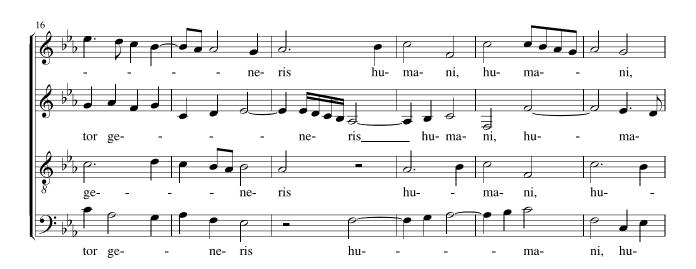


O admirabile commercium







For notes and translation, see page 4.







Sources: MS 2269 (Librone 1), MS 2266 (Librone 4), Archivo della Veneranda Fabbrica del Duomo, Sezione Musicale, Milan Note values halved. Transposed down a tone.

Text: Vespers antiphons O admirabile commercium and Germinavit radix Jesse for the feast of the Circumcision (1st January)

Translation:

O admirable exchange: The creator of the human race, assuming a living body was worthy to be born of a virgin, and coming forth as a man without seed, has granted us his deity.

The root of Jesse has sprouted, a star has risen out of Jacob; a virgin has borne for us a saviour. We praise you, our God.

Lynn Halpern Ward (*The "Motetti Missales" Repertory Reconsidered*, Journal of the American Musicological Society, Vol. 39, No. 3 - Autumn 1986) has suggested that this piece may be part of a *motetti musicali* cycle: a Milanese practice of substituting the movements of a mass with motets. In its two sources, it is grouped with the other extant motets of this conjectural cycle: In Librone 1, it follows *Ave virgo gloriosa* and *Ave regina caelorum*; in the fire-damaged Librone 4, it is followed by *Sanctus* and *O genetrix gloriosa*. Whether or not all the components of Ward's proposed cycle were ever performed as a unit, it seems likely that they were used in the groupings in which they appear in the Libroni.