

# Agnus Dei

**Source:**

*A Plain and Easy Introduction to Practical Music*  
by Thomas Morley, published 1597, reprinted 1771.

Motet, *quatuor vocum*, pp. 256-257:

*Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi, miserere nostri.*

**Thomas Morley (ca. 1557-1602)**

Edited by Charles H. Giffen

**N.B.** Transposed down a perfect fourth from the original.

Cantus (Alto)

Altus (Tenor)

Tenor (Baritone)

Bassus (Bass)

Reh. only

A - gnus De -  
A - gnus De - - - i, A - gnus De - i,  
A - gnus De - - - i, qui tol - - - - lis, qui tol -  
A - gnus De - - - i,

**Edition notes:** Except for barring and modernization of clefs and other notation, this edition is faithful to the source as presented in the four parts set out in Morley's 1597 treatise. The parenthesized *musica ficta* in mm. 14, 15, and 47 in the Tenor part represent additions that are not in the 1597 source but appear (in score) in the well-intended but inaccurate Appendix to the 1771 reprinting by William Randall: these are either copyist errors or anonymous editorial additions from a later time. Other *musica ficta* (by the present editor) are marked as usual without parentheses. Some modern editions include accidentals (that are not marked as *musica ficta*) which do not accord with the 1597 source. For example, some editions ill-advisedly remove the flat on the second note of the Cantus part in m. 65 (which is clearly flattened in the source).

11

i, qui tol - lis pec - ca - ta mun -

qui tol - lis, qui tol - lis pec - ca - ta

qui tol - lis

21

di, \_\_\_\_\_ pec - ca - ta

mun - di, \_\_\_\_\_ pec - ca - ta mun -

mun - di, pec - ca - ta mun -

pec - ca - ta mun -

31

This section of the musical score consists of four staves. The top two staves are for voices, and the bottom two are for a basso continuo part. The music is in common time. Measure 31 starts with a vocal entry on 'mun' followed by a piano dynamic. Measures 32 and 33 continue the vocal line with 'di' and 'mi'. Measure 34 begins with a basso continuo entry. Measure 35 concludes the section.

mun - - - - di, mi - se - re - re no - stri, no - - -

- - - - di, mi - se - re - re no - stri, no - - -

31

di, mi - se - re - re no - - -

41

This section continues the musical score. The top two staves show the vocal parts continuing their melody. The bottom two staves show the basso continuo part. Measure 41 begins with a vocal entry on 're'. Measures 42 and 43 continue the vocal line. Measure 44 begins with a basso continuo entry. Measure 45 concludes the section.

re no - stri, mi - se - re - re no - - -

- - stri, mi - se - re - re no - - -

stri, mi - se - re - re no - - -

stri, mi - se - re - re no - - -

41

stri, mi - se - re - re no - - -

51

stri, mi - se - re - re no - - - - - stri, mi - se -  
stri, mi - se - re - re no - - - - - stri, mi -  
stri, mi - se - re - re no - - stri, no - - - - - stri, mi -  
51  
stri, mi - se - re - re no - - stri, no - - - - - stri, mi -

61

mi - se - re - re no - - - - - stri.  
re - re no - - - stri, mi - se - re - re no - - - - - stri.  
- se - re - re no - - stri, mi - se - re - re no - - - - - stri.  
- se - re - re no - - - - - stri.

61  
- se - re - re no - - - - - stri.