



SONG OF THE VESTAL VIRGINS

A pagan religious celebration and sacrificial ceremony is in progress presided over by Roman priests in the presence of the chief Vestal, Rufia, and the five other Vestal Virgins.

The occasion celebrates the triumphal return of Marcus Vinicius and the Roman armies. Ceremonial dancers execute their ritual movements to the music of an ecstatic chorus in honor of Vertumnus and Pomona, Roman gods of the fertility of field and garden.

The whole scene is essentially Roman in its worship of these Roman deities, in the hymn sung in thanksgiving for the harvest in the presence of the Vestals—keepers of the sacred hearth fire of the capital of the Empire—and in that it all takes place in a moment of military triumph under the shadow of the statues of the gods of Rome.

SONG OF THE VESTAL VIRGINS

(FERTILITY HYMN)

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Music by
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Allegro con esultazione



Piano introduction musical notation in G major, 2/4 time, featuring a melody in the right hand and accompaniment in the left hand.



0 guard-ian Nymph thou keep-er of tree and



soil, _____ The voice of love now



clear in the gar-den calls, _____ He

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comes to thee who brings the har - vest

The first system of music features a vocal line in treble clef with a key signature of two sharps (F# and C#). The lyrics "comes to thee who brings the har - vest" are written below the notes. The piano accompaniment consists of two staves: the right hand in treble clef and the left hand in bass clef. The piano part includes chords and melodic lines that support the vocal melody.

O - pen thy arms to em - brace Ver - tum - nus.

The second system continues the musical piece. The vocal line has the lyrics "O - pen thy arms to em - brace Ver - tum - nus." The piano accompaniment continues with similar harmonic and melodic patterns, featuring some dynamic markings like accents (>) and slurs.

O guard-ian Nymph Ver - tum - nus is call - ing

marc. il basso

The third system begins with a rest for the vocal line, followed by the lyrics "O guard-ian Nymph Ver - tum - nus is call - ing". The piano accompaniment includes a tempo marking "*marc. il basso*" (markedo, in a lower register) under the bass line. The piano part features a prominent bass line with slurs and accents.

thee, Po - mo - na hear and ans - wer thy lov - er's

The fourth system contains the lyrics "thee, Po - mo - na hear and ans - wer thy lov - er's". The vocal line continues with a melodic phrase. The piano accompaniment provides a steady harmonic and rhythmic foundation.

plea, ————— See now he comes who brings the har -

The first system of the musical score features a vocal line in treble clef with a key signature of two sharps (F# and C#) and a common time signature. The lyrics are "plea, ————— See now he comes who brings the har -". The piano accompaniment consists of two staves: the right hand in treble clef and the left hand in bass clef. The piano part includes various musical notations such as slurs, accents, and dynamic markings.

vest, ————— O - pen thy arms to his love Po - mo -

The second system continues the musical score with the lyrics "vest, ————— O - pen thy arms to his love Po - mo -". The vocal line and piano accompaniment maintain the same key signature and time signature as the first system. The piano part features a steady accompaniment with slurs and accents.

na, ————— Po - mo - na ————— Po - mo - na —————

string.

The third system contains the lyrics "na, ————— Po - mo - na ————— Po - mo - na —————". The vocal line is marked with a forte dynamic (*ff*). The piano accompaniment includes a section marked *string.* in the right hand, indicating a string-like texture. The piano part continues with slurs and accents.

fff a tempo O god - dess of earth. —————

fff a tempo *fff*

The fourth system begins with the lyrics "O god - dess of earth. —————". The vocal line is marked with a fortissimo dynamic (*fff*) and the tempo marking *a tempo*. The piano accompaniment also features *fff* and *a tempo* markings. The system concludes with a double bar line and repeat signs in both the vocal and piano parts.