

PUER NATUS EST NOBIS

Introit for the Mass of Christmas Mass Day
Gregorian Mode 7
for Cantor or Schola Cantorum
with Flute

TONY BARR

Puer natus est nobis,
et filius datus est nobis:
cujus imperium super humerum ejus:
et vocabitur nomen ejus,
magni consilii Angelus.

A child is born for us
and a son is given to us
whose rules is over all people
whose name shall be called
Angel of great Counsel.

This ancient chant has, for centuries, been the Introit of the Midnight Mass of Christmas Day; the midnight and dawn Masses preceded it. *Puer Natus Est Nobis* is still among the most popular Gregorian antiphons today, and is sung in mode 7, Mixolydian mode. This version appears to date 100 years after the death of Pope St Gregory, living as long ago as the year 700. Later Medieval manuscripts were to set it in mode 8, the Dorian mode. As an Introit or entrance chant, its functionality was in response to the traditional entrance of the monks for the celebration of the the third, and fourth, Masses of Christmas Day.

The theme of the *Puer Natus Est Nobis* dates to the early centuries of the Christian church, evoking the prophecies of Isaiah 9:6-7, of a child born to us, a son given to us. It opens with a fanfare, a rising fifth, to announce the greatness of Incarnation. The second phrase, in response, likewise opens with the rising fifth, a flowing statement of proclamation.

After the antiphon, a psalm would be sung by a cantor, 'Sing a new song', from the Christmas Psalms 96-98, which are set to 1 Chronicles 16:23. Then the antiphon is repeated by all.

- Tony Barr

Puer Natus Est Nobis

A Child Is Born For Us
Free-flow Flute

transcribed Tony Barr

Flute somewhat freely

Pu - er na - tus e - st no - bis,
et fi - li - us da - est no - bis:
cu - jus im - per - su - per hu - me -
- jus:
vo - ca - bi - tur no - men e -

The image shows a musical score for a free-flow flute part. It consists of ten systems of music, each with a treble clef staff and a vocal line below it. The key signature is three flats (B-flat, E-flat, A-flat) and the time signature is common time (C). The music is written in a style that is somewhat freely interpreted. A large, diagonal watermark reading 'SAMPLE' is overlaid across the entire page. The lyrics are in Latin and are written below the vocal line. The first system starts with a rest for the flute, followed by a melodic line. The lyrics are: 'Pu - er na - tus e - st no - bis,'. The second system continues the melody: 'et fi - li - us da - est no - bis:'. The third system: 'cu - jus im - per - su - per hu - me -'. The fourth system: '- jus:'. The fifth system: 'vo - ca - bi - tur no - men e -'. The sixth system continues the melody. The seventh system: 'vo - ca - bi - tur no - men e -'. The eighth system continues the melody. The ninth system: 'vo - ca - bi - tur no - men e -'. The tenth system continues the melody.

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The musical score is written in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It consists of two systems of two staves each. The first system contains the lyrics "jus, mag - ni con - si - li i". The second system contains the lyrics "An - lus.". The melody is primarily composed of eighth and quarter notes, with some half notes and rests. The accompaniment consists of simple chords and rests. A large, bold, black watermark reading "SAMPLE" is oriented diagonally across the page, from the bottom left to the top right.

SAMPLE