

# Transcription and Musical Interpretation of a Breviary Fragment

By Alina Blank with Musical Assistance by Katie Blank

UVic's Fragm.Lat.18 is a leaf from a noted Breviary featuring three responsorial chants from the Matins of Christmas: *Orietur in diebus Domini abundantia*, *Veritas de terra orta*, and *O magnum mysterium*. All three are traditional Gregorian chants in the vocal range of a typical male adult.

Victoria, McPherson Library, Fragm.Lat.18

Acc. 1942-045, Item #10

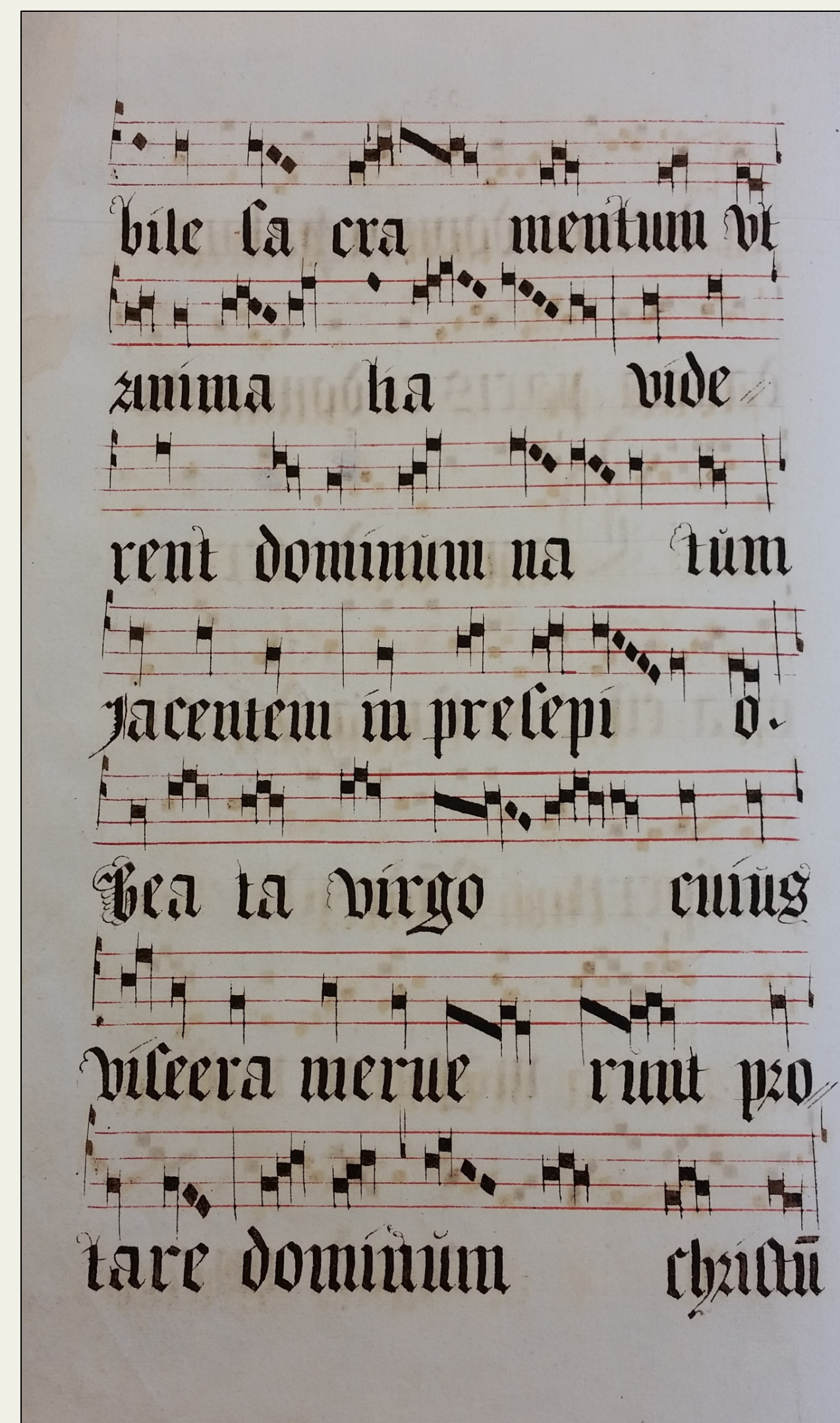
Fragment from a Noted Breviary

Spain

s. XVI<sup>2</sup>

Recto

Verso



23

in diebus domini habundancia pacis et dominabitur **A(ntiphona)** **V**eritas de terra orta est et iusticia de celo prospexit **p(salmus)** **B(e)n(e)dixisti** **R(esponsa)** **O** magnum misterium et Ad mira-

- Lines 1-3 are the end of *Orietur in diebus Domini abundantia*.
- Lines 3-5 are *Veritas de terra orta* (as antiphon).
- Lines 6-7 are the beginning of *O magnum mysterium* (as response).
- The "h" of "habundancia" is blotted out, possibly as a spelling correction indicating special concern with dialect and pronunciation.

bile sacramentum vt  
Animalia viderent dominum natum  
lacentem in presepio  
beata virgo cuius  
viscera meruerunt pro-  
tare dominum christu(m)

- The entirety of the verso is the remainder of *O magnum mysterium*.
- The "custos," a symbol marking the first note of the following line, is found at the end of each stave throughout the fragment.
- The final custos, and therefore the first note of the next (missing) page, is a C.

## Modern Musical Interpretation

UVic Fragm.Lat.18

- Fragm.Lat.18 utilizes four staves with a C clef at the top, allowing the most frequently used notes by male voices to appear.
- We chose to retain the C clef, but otherwise used modern musical notation to allow for easier sight reading by modern singers.
- The eleventh note on line 7 of the verso (B) may be a mistake as it resembles a custos more than a note.

### Bibliography

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### Acknowledgments

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