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# ODE ON THE NATIVITY

THE WORDS BY

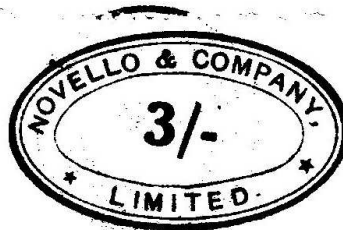
WILLIAM DUNBAR

SET TO MUSIC FOR

SOPRANO SOLO, CHORUS, AND ORCHESTRA

BY

C. H. H. PARRY.



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MADE IN ENGLAND.

# ON THE NATIVITY OF CHRIST.

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RORATE cœli desuper !  
Heavens, distil your balmy showers !  
For now is risen the bright day-star,  
From the Rose Mary, flower of flowers ;  
The clear Sun, whom no cloud devours,  
Surmounting Phœbus in the East,  
Is coming of his heavenly tours,  
Et nobis Puer natus est.

Archangels, angels and dominations,  
Thrones, potestates and martyrs sair,  
And all ye heavenly operations,  
Star, planet, firmament, and sphere,  
Fire, earth, air and water clear,  
To Him give loving, most and least,  
That cometh in so meek manner ;  
Et nobis Puer natus est ;

Sinners be glad and penance do,  
And thank your Maker heartfully ;  
For He that ye might not come to,  
To you is come full humbly  
Your souls with His blood to buy  
And loose you of the fiend's arrest—  
And only of His own mercy ;  
Pro nobis Puer natus est.

Celestial fowls in the air,  
Sing with your notes upon height ;  
In firths and forests fair  
Be mirthful now with all your might ;  
For passed is your dully night,  
Aurora has the clouds dispersed,  
The Sun is risen with gladsome light,  
Et nobis Puer natus est .

Now spring up flowers from the root,  
Revert you upward naturally,  
In honour of the blessed fruit  
That rose up from the Rose Mary ;  
Lay out your leaves lustily,  
From dead take life now at the least  
In worship of that Prince worthy  
Qui nobis Puer natus est.

Sing, heaven imperial, most of height !  
Regions of air make harmony !  
All fish in flood and fowl of flight  
Be mirthful and make melody !  
All *Gloria in excelsis* cry !  
Heaven, earth, sea, man, bird and beast,—  
He that is crowned above the sky  
Pro nobis Puer natus est