



Veni Sancte Spiritus

SOURCES

Wonder, Love, and Praise (A Supplement to the Hymnal 1982): 832

Music From Taizé (American Edition, G.I.A. Publications)

INTRODUCING THE HYMN

1. Give the children a brief description of Pentecost: its origin (meaning 50th day, once associated by the Jews with the giving of the Law to Moses at Mt. Sinai) and its present significance as the founding of the Christian church on the day of Pentecost.
2. Present visuals of the more common symbols of Pentecost:
 - (a) the descending dove, representing the Holy Spirit and derived from Biblical accounts of Jesus' baptism: Matt. 3:13-17; Mark 1:9-11; Luke 3:21-22; John 1:31-34
 - (b) the flame, derived from the Biblical account of the Day of Pentecost: Acts 2:1-4. The winds referred to in this passage also appear in the hymn text.
3. Teach the ostinato first, taking care with the Latin vowels, notably eh, ah, ee, oo. Practice speaking each word, then singing it on one pitch. Introduce the rocking 6/8 pattern by asking the children to sway gently as you (later they) sing the phrase.
4. If the children are to learn and sing the cantor's part, they may learn it by rote. Delay, and minimize, the *r* in *forth* and sustain an *ah* vowel in *light*.

MUSICAL CONCEPTS AND SKILLS

Tonality Major mode

Melody The ostinato is immediately singable and suggests a supplication that continues throughout and supports the cantor's melody.

Harmony I-ii over tonic pedal in response (ostinato). Implied throughout, this effect is one of stability and serenity.

Rhythm Organized in groups of two (6/8) Basically three motives:



Form Irregular phrase lengths (4 - 8 - 10)

Text Pentecost sequence from the Taizé community, 1978 • Latin response, meaning, "Come, Holy Spirit" • Litany form, with Latin text used as an ostinato or as a refrain • Somewhat sophisticated imagery and theological concepts, most suitable for older children.

WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Music at the Eucharist Epistle lesson response

A call to worship Litany for Pentecost

ABOUT TAIZÉ

Taizé is a small village of eastern France and is the home of an ecumenical community of brothers who sing prayers three times daily. Taizé attracts pilgrims from around the world to join in the meditation and sung prayers. The music employs simple elements for quick learning and active participation; repetitive structures such as the ostinato are common. The Latin language is preferred, given the international nature of the visitors, and is valued for its musical qualities as well. Phrases in living languages may be sung by cantors.

ABOUT THE MUSIC

Written by Jacques Berthier (1923-1994), composer/organist at St. Ignatius Church of Paris, "Veni Sancte Spiritus" is characteristic of the Taizé style. The Latin phrase is intended as an ostinato to be sung continuously throughout the verses sung by the cantor. In the Taizé collection, ostinato keyboard and guitar parts are included, as well as solo sections for a variety of orchestral instruments to enrich the arrangement.

Children's choirs may learn either or both of the cantor's verses presented here, with congregation joining in with the Latin ostinato as a litany response, or sung as the intended ostinato.

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