



# Nicola LeFanu

## *Misterium Mirabile* and *Rosa Sine Spina* two Latin carols for SSA a cappella

*Misterium Mirabile* was composed in 1999 for the choir of Norwich Girls High School. *Rosa Sine Spina* (2002) was commissioned by the Northrop Festival for the vocal trio 'Juice'. Each carol lasts about four minutes.

NL

### *Misterium Mirabile*

*Of a rose sing we*  
Misterium mirabile

This rose is red of colour bright  
Through whom our joy 'gan alight  
Upon Christmas night  
Claro David germine.

Of a rose sing we  
Misterium mirabile

Of this rose was Christ born  
To save mankind that was forlorn  
And us all from sins sore  
Prophetarum carmine.

Of a rose sing we  
Misterium mirabile

This rose of flowers she is flower  
She will not fade in any shower  
To sinful men she sent succour  
Mira plenitudine.

Of a rose sing we  
Misterium mirabile

This rose is so fair of hue  
In maid Mary that is so true  
There was born Lord of virtue  
Salvator sine crimine.

Of a rose sing we  
Misterium mirabile.

Anon. c1450

Continues...

*Rosa Sine Spina*

Of one that is so fair and bright,  
*Velud maris stella,*  
Brighter than the day is light,  
*Parens et puella:*  
I cry to thee-thou seest me-  
Lady, pray thy son for me,  
*Tam pia,*  
That I may come to thee,  
*Maria.*

Lady, flower of all things,  
*Rosa sine spina,*  
Thou bore Jesus, heavenly king,  
*Gratia divina.*  
Of all, thou bearest the prize,  
Lady, Queen of Paradise  
*Electa;*  
Maiden mild, mother is  
*Effecta.*

All this world was forlorn  
*Eva peccatrice,*  
Till our Lord was born  
*De te genitrice.*  
With Ave it went away,  
Darkest night, and cometh day  
*Salutis.*  
The well springeth out of thee  
*Virtutis.*

Of care, counsel thou art best,  
*Felix fecundata;*  
Of all weary thou art rest.  
*Mater honorata.*  
Beseech him with mild mood,  
That for us all shed his blood  
*In cruce,*  
That we may come to him,  
*In luce.*

Anon. 13th century.

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