

### **Stabat Mater: English texts**

There are numerous translations, some of which attempt to recreate the atmosphere of the original, and match exactly the natural rhythm of the words. The above translation aims to be as near as possible to a literal translation, though some phrases can be interpreted in different ways. It is impossible to find a "singable" translation that accurately reflects the exact meaning of each phrase.

#### **1. Choir with soloists.**

**Stabat Mater dolorosa iuxta crucem lacrimosa dum  
pendebat Filius**

The sorrowful Mother stood full of tears by the Cross while her Son was hanging there.

#### **2. Tenor Solo**

**Cuius animam gementem contristatam et dolentem  
per transivit gladius**

**O quam tristis et afflicta fuit illa benedicta**

**Mater Unigeniti**

**Quae moerebat et dolebat et tremebat cum videbat nati  
poenas incliti**

Her soul, sighing, anguished and grieving, was pierced by a sword

O how sad and afflicted was that blessed Mother of her Only-begotten Son

She who grieved and suffered, while she observed Her Son's pain.

#### **3. Soprano / Mezzo Duet**

**Quis est homo qui non fleret Matri Christi si videret in tanto  
supplicio?**

**Quis non posset contristari Matrem Christi contemplari  
dolentem cum filio?**

Where is the man who would not weep to see the Mother of Christ in such suffering?

Who would not share her sorrow, seeing the loving Mother grieving with her Son?

#### **4. Bass Solo**

**Pro peccatis suae gentis vidit Iesum in tormentis et flagellis  
subditum**

**Vidit suum dulcem natum moriendo desolatum dum emisit  
spiritum**

For the sins of Mankind she saw Jesus undergo torment and the lashing.

She saw her dear Son dying, forsaken, as He yielded up His spirit

#### **5. Choir with Bass Solo**

**Eia Mater, fons amoris, me sentire vim doloris fac ut tecum  
lugeam**

**Fac ut ardeat cor meum in amando Christum Deum ut sibi  
complaceam**

Mother, fount of love, make me to feel the strength of your grief,  
so that I may mourn with you  
Make my heart burn with love for Christ, my God, that I may be  
pleasing to Him

#### **6. Quartet**

**Sancta Mater, istud agas, crucifixi fige plagas cordi meo  
valide**

**Tui nati vulnerati tam dignati pro me pati poenas mecum  
divide**

**Fac me vere tecum flere crucifixo condolere donec ego  
vixero**

**Iuxta crucem tecum stare te libenter sociare in planctu  
desidero**

**Virgo virginum praeclara mihi iam non sis amara fac me  
tecum plangere**

Holy Mother, grant this I pray, imprint the wounds of the  
Crucified deep into my heart.

Share with me the agony of your wounded Son who deigned to  
suffer so much for me

Grant me indeed to weep with you, to suffer with the Crucified,  
until I depart this life

To stand with you beside the Cross and share your grief is my  
desire

Virgin of virgins, do not turn away from me, let me weep with  
you

#### **7. Mezzo Solo**

**Fac ut portem Christi mortem passionis eius sortem et  
plagas recolere**

**Fac me plagis vulnerari cruce hac inebriari ob amorem filii**

Grant that I may bear the death of Christ, be a sharer of his  
Passion, contemplate His wounds

Let me suffer his wounds; make me inebriated by His Cross,  
and the flowing blood of the Son.

#### **8. Soprano Solo with Choir.**

**Inflammatum et accensus, per te, Virgo, sim defensum in die  
iudicii**

**Fac me cruce custodiri morte Christi praemuniri confoveri  
gratia**

Burning in the flames, O Virgin, may I be defended by you, on  
the day of judgement

Grant that I may be protected by the Cross, fortified by the  
death of Christ, strengthened by grace

**9. Quando corpus morietur fac ut animae donetur paradisi  
gloria.**

When my body dies, may my soul be granted the glory of  
paradise.

#### **10. Amen, in sempiternam.**

Amen, forever and ever.