

Giovanni Pierluigi da Palestrina

Sicut cervus

for SATB Chorus

[Editor: Thomas Dunn]

Sicut cœvus desiderat ad fontes aquarum:
ita desiderat anima mœa ad te, Dœus.

—Psalm 42: 1

The musical score is written in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It features four vocal staves (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) and an Organ part. The lyrics are: "Sicut cœvus desiderat ad fontes aquarum: ita desiderat anima mœa ad te, Dœus." The organ part begins with a C-clef and a common time signature (C), indicating it is in common time (4/4).

Sic - ut
As - the

Sic - ut cer - vus de - si - de -
As the hart is a - thirst for

Sic - ut cer - vus de - si - de - rat ad fon - tes a - qua -
As the hart is a - thirst for streams of clear run - ning wa -

[Organ]

6

cer - vus de - si - de - rat ad fon - tes a - qua -
 bart is a - thirst for streams of clear run - ning wa -

rat ad fon - tes a - qua - rum,
 streams of clear run - ning wa - ter,

rum, sic - ut
 ter, as the

Sic - ut cer - vus de - si - de - rat ad
 As the bart is a - thirst for streams of

10

rum, a - qua - rum,
 ter, clear wa - ter,

sic - ut cer - vus de - si - de -
 As the bart is a - thirst for

cer - vus de - si - de - rat ad fon - tes a -
 bart is a - thirst for streams of clear run - ning

fon - tes a - qua - rum, sic -
 clear run - ning wa - ter, as

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sic - ut cer - vus de -
as - the bart is a -

rat ad fon - tes a - qua - rum de -
streams of clear run - ning wa - ter, a -

qua - wa - rum,
wa - ter,

ut cer - vus de - si - de - rat
the bart is a - thirst for streams,

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si - de - rat ad fon - tes a - qua -
thirst for streams of clear run - ning wa -

si - de - rat ad fon - tes a - qua -
thirst for streams of clear run - ning wa -

de - si - de - rat ad fon - tes a - qua -
a - thirst for streams of clear run - ning wa -

de - si - de - rat ad fon - tes a - qua - rum,
a - thirst for streams of clear run - ning wa - ter,

23

rum, i - ta
ter, so do

rum, i - ta de - si - de - rat
ter, so do I long for thee

i - ta de - si -
so do I long

de - si - de - rat,
I long for thee,

i - ta de - si - de - rat,
so do I long for thee, so

- de - rat i - ta
for thee, so do

28

de - si - de - rat,
I long for thee,

i - ta de - si - de - rat,
so do I long for thee,

i - ta de - si - de - rat, i -
so do I long for thee, so

- de - rat i - ta
for thee, so do

33

i - ta de - si - de - rat
 so do I long for thee

i - ta, i - ta de -
 so do I

ta de - si - de - rat, i - ta de - si - de - rat, i -
 do I long for thee, so do I long for thee, so

de - si - de - rat,
 I long for thee

38

a - ni - ma me -
 with my whole be -

si - de - rat a - ni - ma
 long for thee with my whole

ta de - si - de - rat
 do I long for thee,

i - ta de - si - de - rat, de -
 so do I long for thee, do

43

a ad te De - us
 ing O Lord my God

me - a ad te De - us a - ni - ma
 be - ing, O Lord, my God with my whole

a - ni - ma me - a ad te De -
 with my whole be - ing, O Lord my

si - de - rat a - ni - ma me - a ad
 long for thee, with my whole be - ing, O

48

a ni - ma me - a ad te De -
 with my whole be - ing, O Lord my

me - a ad te De - us, ad
 be - ing, O Lord my God, O

- us, a - ni - ma me -
 God, with my whole be -

te De - us, a - ni - ma me - a ad te
 Lord my God, with my whole be - ing, O Lord

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us.
God.

te De - us, ad te De - us.
Lord my God, O Lord my God.

a ad te De - us, ad te De - us.
ing, O Lord my God, O Lord my God.

De - us, ad te De - us.
my God, O Lord my God.

Source

Le opere complete. Rome, Fratelli Scaleri, 1939-1965. Vol. 11

Liturgical use

Tract for the Blessing of the Font on Holy Saturday

Translation

Like as the hart desireth the water-brooks:
so longeth my soul after thee, O God.

Giovanni Pierluigi da Palestrina (c.1525-1594)

Born at Palestrina; chorister in the cathedral there, then at S. Maria Maggiore, Rome; organist and choirmaster of the Cathedral of S. Agapit in Palestrina in 1544; Maestro of the Cappella Giulia in 1551; member of the Pontifical Choir and Maestro of S. John Lateran in 1555; Maestro of S. Maria Maggiore in 1561; music director of the new Roman Seminary from 1565-71; entered service of Cardinal d'Este in 1567; again Maestro of the Cappella Giulia from 1571 until his death; the title Master of Music at the Vatican Basilica was bestowed on him in 1578. He married the widow of a prosperous furrier in 1581 and ran the business until his death in Rome.