

I

# O MAGNUM MYSTERIUM

English version by  
**HUGH ROSS**

**FRANCIS POULENC**  
1952

*O how great the mystery, and how ineffable the covenant, that simple beasts behold the Christ-Child, as a babe new-born, and lying in a manger stall. O blessed Virgin, hallow'd is thy womb that it could hold the flesh and blood of Christ our Lord.*

O magnum mysterium, et admirabile sacramentum, ut animalia viderent Dominum natum jacentem in præsepio. Beata virgo cujus viscera meruerunt portare Dominum Christum.

Calmo e dolce ♩ = 50

SOPRANO

ALTO

TENOR

BASS

Piano  
(for rehearsal only.)

*ppp*

O ma - gnum — mys - te - ri - um, — et ad - mi -  
O how great — the mys - te - ry, — and how in -

*ppp*

O ma - gnum — mys - te - ri - um, — et ad - mi -  
O how great — the mys - te - ry, — and how in -

*ppp*

O ma - gnum — mys - te - ri - um, — et ad - mi -  
O how great — the mys - te - ry, — and how in -

Sal. 12

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① *ppp dolce, legatiss.*

O ma - gnum mys - te - ri - um, — et  
 O how great the mys - te - ry, — and

*ppp appena articolato*

- ra - bi - le sa - cra - men - tum — mys - te - ri - um, — mys -  
 - ef - fa - ble is the cov - e - nant — O the mys - te - ry, — the

*ppp appena articolato*

- ra - bi - le sa - cra - men - tum — mys - te - ri - um, mys -  
 - ef - fa - ble is the cov - e - nant — O the mys - te - ry, the

*ppp appena articolato*

④

- ra - bi - le sa - cra - men - tum — O ma - gnum — mys -  
 - ef - fa - ble is the cov - e - nant — O how great — the

② *mf*

ad - mi - ra - bi - le sa - cra - men - tum, ut a - ni - ma - li -  
 how in - ef - fa - ble is the cov - e - nant, that sim - ple beasts be -

*mf*

- te - ri - um ma - gnum, — a - ma - li -  
 mys - te - ry, how great, — that beasts be -

*mf*

- te - ri - um sa - cra - men - tum, a - ni - ma - li -  
 mys - te - ry, of the cov - e - nant, that the beasts be -

*mf*

⑧

- te - ri - um ma - gnum, — a - ma - li -  
 mys - te - ry, how great, — that beasts be -

*p* *f*

- a vi - de - rent hold the Christ-Child Do - minum na - tum ja - cen - tem in prae -  
as a babe new-born and ly - ing in a

*p* *f*

- a vi - de - rent hold the Christ-Child Do - minum na - tum ja - cen - tem in prae -  
as a babe new-born and ly - ing in a

*p* *f*

- a vi - de - rent hold the Christ-Child Do - minum na - tum ja - cen - tem in prae -  
as a babe new-born and ly - ing in a

11

- a vi - de - rent hold the Christ-Child Do - minum na - tum ja - cen - tem in prae -  
as a babe new-born and ly - ing in a

*pp* ③ *ppp*

- se - pi - o. man - ger stall. O ma - gnum mys - te - ri - um, et ad - mi - ra - bi - le  
O how great the mys - te - ry, and how in - ef - fa - ble

*pp* *ppp*

- se - pi - o. man - ger stall. Mys - te - ri - um, mys - te - ri - um,  
O the mys - te - ry, the mys - te - ry,

*pp* *ppp*

- se - pi - o. man - ger stall. Mys - te - ri - um, mys - te - ri - um,  
O the mys - te - ry, the mys - te - ry,

14

- se - pi - o. man - ger stall. O ma - gnum mys - te - ri - um,  
O how great the mys - te - ry,

③

18

sa - cra - men - tum, ut a - ni - ma - li - a vi - de - rent  
 is the cov - e - nant, that sim - ple beasts be - hold the Christ - Child

sa - cra - men - tum, a - ni - ma - li - a vi - de - rent  
 of the cov - e - nant, that beasts should be - hold the Christ - Child

sa - cra - men - tum, a - ni - ma - li - a vi - de - rent  
 of the cov - e - nant, that beasts should be - hold the Christ - Child

sa - cra - men - tum, a - ni - ma - li - a vi - de - rent  
 of the cov - e - nant, that beasts should be - hold the Christ - Child

21

Do - mi - num na - tum ja - cen - tem in prae - se - pi - o. — Be -  
 as a babe new - born and ly - ing in a man - ger stall. — The

Do - mi - num na - tum ja - cen - tem in prae - se - pi - o. —  
 as a babe new - born and ly - ing in a man - ger stall. —

Do - mi - num na - tum ja - cen - tem prae - se - pi - o. — Be -  
 as a babe new - born and ly - ing in a man - ger. — The

Do - mi - num na - tum ja - cen - tem prae - se - pi - o. — Be -  
 as a babe new - born and ly - ing in a man - ger. — The

Sopr  
Alto

*p* *dolcissimo*

*lips closed*

*mf* **Alto**

Por -  
The

- a - ta vir - go  
bles - sed vir - gin

cu - jus vis - ce - ra me - ru - e - runt  
hal - low'd is thy womb that it could hold

a - ta vir - go  
bles - sed vir - gin

Be - a - ta vir - go  
o - bles - sed vir - gin

24

*pp*

*lips closed*

*p*

Be - a - ta  
O bles - sed

*p*

- ta - re Do - mi - num Chris - tum .  
flesh and blood of Christ our Lord .

Be - a - ta  
O bles - sed

*pp*

*lips closed*

*pp*

*lips closed*

Be - a - ta  
O bles - sed

26

⑤ *ppp dolce, legatiss.*

O ma - gnum mys - te - ri - um, et  
 O how great the mys - te - ry, and

*mf* vir - go.  
*mf* vir - gin.

*ppp* appena articolato  
 mys - te - ri - um, sa -  
 O the mys - te - ry, the

*mf* vir - go.  
*mf* vir - gin.

*ppp* appena articolato  
 mys - te - ri - um, sa -  
 O the mys - te - ry, the

28

⑤

ad - mi - ra - bi - le sa - cra - men - tum, ut a - ni - ma - li -  
 how in - ef - fa - ble is the cov - e - nant, that sim - ple beasts be -

- cra - men - tum ma - gnum, a - ma - li -  
 cov - e - nant how great, that beasts be -

- cra - men - tum ma - gnum, a - ni - ma - li -  
 cov - e - nant how great, that the beasts be -

- cra - men - tum ma - gnum, a - ma - li -  
 cov - e - nant how great, that beasts be -

31

34

a vi - de - rent hold the Christ - Child Do - mi - num na - tum as a babe new - born ja - cen - tem, and ly - ing,

a vi - de - rent hold the Christ - Child Do - mi - num na - tum as a babe new - born ja - cen - tem, and ly - ing,

a vi - de - rent hold the Christ - Child Do - mi - num na - tum as a babe new - born ja - cen - tem, and ly - ing,

a vi - de - rent hold the Christ - Child Do - mi - num na - tum as a babe new - born ja - cen - tem, and ly - ing,

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ja - cen - tem, and ly - ing, ja - cen - tem and ly - ing, prae - se - pi - o, in a man - ger stall.

ja - cen - tem, and ly - ing, ja - cen - tem and ly - ing, prae - se - pi - o, in a man - ger stall.

ja - cen - tem, and ly - ing, ja - cen - tem and ly - ing, prae - se - pi - o, in a man - ger stall.

ja - cen - tem, and ly - ing, ja - cen - tem and ly - ing, prae - se - pi - o, in a man - ger stall.