

60101017
60101018 (PDF)

Creator Wise, Beyond All Words
SATB Choir, Descant, Keyboard (Organ),
Solo Instrument in C, Assembly (includes Hymn Version)

Orin Johnson/Fr. James-Peter Trares, OP



CHORAL SERIES

Creator Wise, Beyond All Words

Music by
Orin Johnson

Text by
Fr. James-Peter Trares, OP



Creator Wise, Beyond All Words

Fr. James-Peter Trares, OP

NON NISI TE, LM

Orin Johnson

INTRO *Tempo semplice* (♩ = ca. 66)

Solo Instrument

Keyboard (Organ)

f

Ped.

4

tr

VERSE 1

Soprano/Alto *mf*

1. Cre - a - tor wise, be-yond all

dim. *mf*

no Ped.

8

mf

1. words, true light who or - ders day and night, ig -

Tenor/Bass *mf*

Text © 2025, Fr. James-Peter Trares, OP. Music © 2025, Orin Johnson.
Text and music published by OCP. All rights reserved. This edition © 2026.

11

1. nite our sul - lied, mur - ky minds to — see by you all things a -

f

cresc.

15

1. right.

f

18

tr

VERSE 2

mf

S *mf*

A

2. Lord, — guide our ar - dent quest to learn — and —

T

B *mf*

dim.

mf

Ped.

21

2. con - tem - plate by ho - ly grace, — that — what our hearts reach out to

cresc.

24

2. know — we — may, by love, at last em - brace. —

tr. *poco marcato*

no Ped.

28

Ped.

31

ff

cresc.

ff

dim.

34

VERSE 3

leggiere

mp

mp

mp

leggiere

mp

no Ped.

3. From hum - ble, straw - like works cre - ate a

3. From hum - ble works cre - ate a

S/A

T/B

37

3. man - ger wor - thy of the Word, where — all the world may taste and
 3. man - ger — of the Word, — all may taste and

40

3. see — the — sav - ing good - ness of the Lord.

mp *f* *mp* *f* *mp* *cresc.* *f*

Ped.

44

rall. tr.

rall. e cresc.

47

VERSE 4 *Poco maestoso* (♩ = ca. 56)

ff

Descant ff

4. May we ___ one day feast with ___

Unison ff

4. Now ___ tast - ing, may we one day feast with ___

ff

50

tr

no breath

4. saints made ra - dant by the sight of — you, Glo - rious Trin - i -

no breath

4. saints made ra - dant by the sight of — you, Most Glo - rious Trin - i -

53

rall.

ff

4. ty: — our home, our true de - light. —

rall.

ff

4. ty: — our — hope, our home, our true de - light.

Stately ($\text{♩} = \text{ca. } 60$)

rall.

cresc.

ff

57

rit. al fine
tr

60

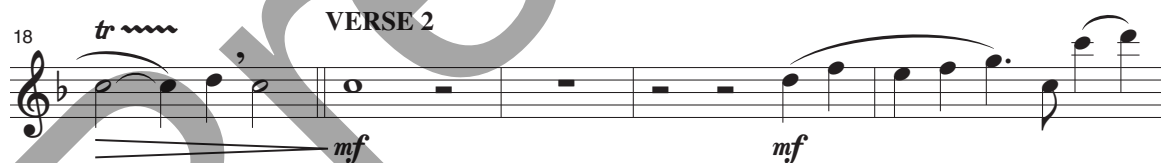
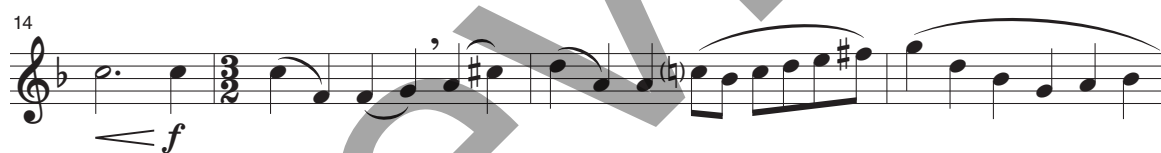
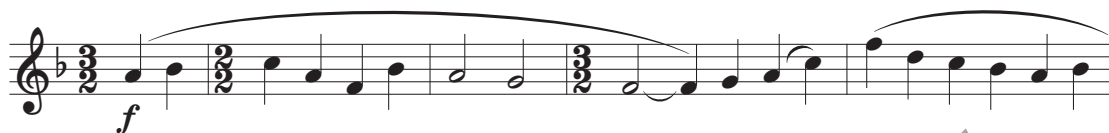
tr

cresc.

rit. al fine

Creator Wise, Beyond All Words

SOLO INSTRUMENT in C

NON NISI TE
Orin JohnsonINTRO *Tempo semplice* ($\text{♩} = \text{ca. } 66$)

© 2025, Orin Johnson. Published by OCP. All rights reserved.

Note: For use with the concertato arrangement; not compatible with the hymn version included in this octavo.

31 *ff* *mp* *leggiere*

VERSE 3

35 *mp*

40 *mp* *f* *tr*

44 *rall.* *tr*

VERSE 4 *Poco maestoso* (♩ = ca. 56)

48 *ff* *tr*

53 *rall.*

Stately (♩ = ca. 60)

56 *ff*

59 *rit. al fine* *tr*

Creator Wise, Beyond All Words

(Hymn Version)

Fr. James-Peter Trares, OP

NON NISI TE, LM

Orin Johnson

1. Cre - a - tor wise, be - yond all words, true ___ light who or - ders
 2. Lord, ___ guide our ar - dent quest to learn and ___ con - tem - plate by
 3. From ___ hum - ble, straw - like works cre - ate a ___ man - ger worth - y
 4. Now ___ tast - ing, may we one day feast with ___ saints made rad - iant

1. day and night, ig - nite our sul - lied, murk - y minds
 2. ho - ly grace, that ___ what our hearts reach out to know
 3. of the Word, where ___ all the world may taste and see
 4. by the sight of ___ you, Most Glo - rious Trin - i - ty:

1. to ___ see by you all things a - right.
 2. we ___ may, by love, at last em - brace.
 3. the ___ sav - ing good - ness of the Lord.
 4. our ___ hope, our home, our true de - light.

Text © 2025, Fr. James-Peter Trares, OP. Music © 2025, Orin Johnson. Text and music published by OCP. All rights reserved.

Creator Wise, Beyond All Words

SOLO INSTRUMENT in C

NON NISI TE
Orin Johnson



© 2025, Orin Johnson. Published by OCP. All rights reserved.

Note: For use with the hymn version; not compatible with the concertato arrangement included in this octavo.

Choral Octavos available from OCP by Orin Johnson

<u>Title</u>	<u>Print</u>	<u>PDF</u>
Christians, Awake!	30152406	30152407
Deep River	30137558	30137559
Easter Alleluia	30155050	30155051
Light of Christ, Burn Bright	30148241	30148242
Litany of the Saints	30149295	30149296
Live Your Love Every Day	30152668	30152669
Pray and Act	30152664	30152665
Remembering Home	30149204	30149205
See How Good	30153632	30153633
The Word Became Flesh	30150295	30150296
True Presence Now Among Us	30152629	30152630
Welcome, Child of God	60100585	60100586
Who Could Love Me More Than You	30145732	30145733

Composer Notes

It was a privilege to be asked to collaborate with Fr. James-Peter Trares, OP to create a hymn for the centennial of an institution that means so much to both of us. We both desired to create a tune and text pairing that was unique, accessible, beautiful, and flexible. Most of all, we wanted to make a piece of music that spoke to the education and formation we experienced there and evoked the saint for whom the Aquinas Institute of Theology is named.

The hymn tune gets its name from St. Thomas Aquinas's brief response during a miraculous moment of prayer in which he heard the Lord's question—from the crucifix—"What reward will you receive from me for your labor?" He replied simply, "Domini, non nisi Te" ("Lord, nothing except you").

While nominally an organ part, the accompaniment is also easily accomplished with a piano (with some judicious left-hand arpeggios in the last verse). The instrumental line isn't wholly necessary but adds a dimension of beauty and momentum to the piece. Encourage the vocal lines to be sung *legato* despite the occasional wide intervals. Let the softer dynamics of Verse 3 highlight the intimacy of the text and also set up the rousing final verse with its pedal point, trinitarian praise, and stately conclusion.

—Orin Johnson

Textwriter Notes

This hymn is especially suited for educational or academic contexts because it is inspired by the spirituality of St. Thomas Aquinas, patron saint of students, teachers, and educational institutions. Today, when education is often reduced to the acquisition of information or credentials, the Angelic Doctor offers the Church a profound spirituality of study. St. Thomas was more than a great thinker; his rigorous pursuit of truth was ultimately a passionate search for God in all things, fueled by his life of prayer as a Dominican friar.

This hymn draws especially from themes in St. Thomas's "Prayer before Study" (*Creator Ineffabilis*). It also alludes to a mystical experience he had while celebrating Mass, after which he suddenly stopped writing, explaining, "Compared with what I saw, everything I have written seems like straw." The verses lead from humble acknowledgement of the limitations of human minds, to wonder at God's gift of enlightening grace received especially in the Eucharist, to confidence that our search for truth will finally lead us to see, know, and love God.

—Fr. James-Peter Trares, OP

Assembly Edition

CREATOR WISE, BEYOND ALL WORDS

Orin Johnson



1. Cre - a - tor wise, be - yond all words, true
 2. Lord, guide our ar - dent quest to learn and
 3. From hum - ble, straw - like works cre - ate a
 4. Now tast - ing, may we one day feast with

1. light who or - ders day and night, ig - nite our sul -
 2. con - tem - plate by ho - ly grace, that what our hearts
 3. man - ger worth - y of the Word, where all the world
 4. saints made rad - iant by the sight of you, Most Glo -

1. lied, murk - y minds to see by you all things a - right.
 2. reach out to know we may, by love, at last em - brace.
 3. may taste and see the sav - ing good - ness of the Lord.
 4. rious Trin - i - ty: our hope, our home, our true de - light.

Text: LM, © 2025, Fr. James-Peter Trares, OP. Music: NON NISI TE, © 2025, Orin Johnson.
 Text and music published by OCP. All rights reserved.

For reprint permissions, please visit OneLicense.net or contact us at 1-800-663-1501.

