Two Hymns to the Mother of God were first performed on 14th December 1985 by the Choir of Winchester Cathedral conducted by Martin Neary.

COMPOSER'S NOTE

These *Two Hymns* were written in memory of my mother. The first is for double choir, and is a setting of a text from the Liturgy of St Basil. It speaks of the almost cosmic power attributed to the Mother of God by the Orthodox Church. The second comes from the Vigil Service of the Dormition (or falling asleep) of the Mother of God. She invites the apostles to gather together from the ends of the earth to bury her body in Gethsemane, and asks her son to receive her spirit.

J.T.

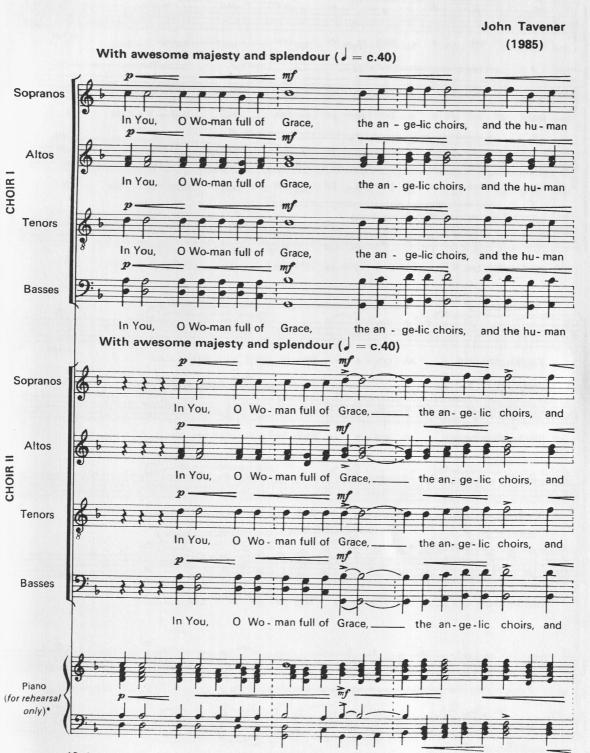
Born in London in 1944, **John Tavener** showed his musical talents at an early age, and by the time he entered Highgate School, he was already an unusually able pianist and organist. While at school, he devoted an increasing amount of time to composition and proceeded to the Royal Academy of Music where he won many major prizes and awards. In 1965 his dramatic cantata, *The Whale*, took the London audience by storm at its premiere given at the debut concert of the London Sinfonietta, and ever since then, Tavener has continued to show an originality of concept and an intensely personal idiom, making his voice quite separate from that of his contemporaries.

Compositions both sacred and secular have been commissioned from Tavener by most of the major organisations in his home country, and more recently his music has acquired a genuine and ever-increasing following in the United States of America. He divides his time between his home in London and an island in Greece where he finds the atmosphere and climate very conducive to composition.

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A HYMN TO THE MOTHER OF GOD

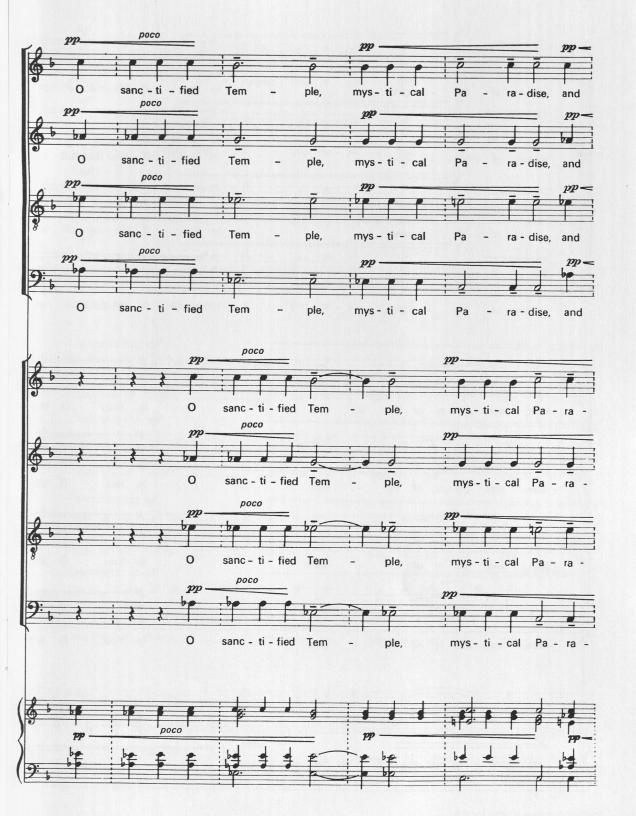


*Owing to the canonic writing, it is not possible to represent the true effect of this work on the keyboard

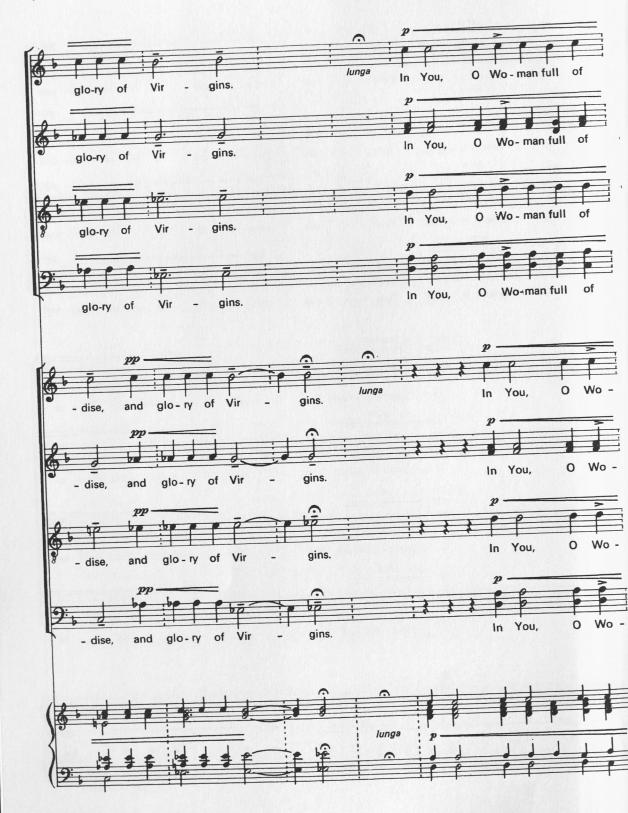
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