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LORD, dismiss us with thy Blessing

John Fawcett (1740–1817) A Supplement to the Shawbury Hymn Book, 1773 The Sicilian Mariner's Hymn to the Virgin
European Magazine and London Review, November 1792
Edited by Nicholas Markwell and Fiona Dunn







The Sicilian Mariner's Hymn to the Virgin was first printed in the European Magazine and London Review, November 1792, set to the Latin text O Sanctissima. It had been collected by a German poet, Johann Gottfried von Herder during a visit to Italy in 1788–9. He published it in his Stimmen der Völker in Liedern in 1807, which may have led to it being associated with the German Christmas carol O du Frohliche, O du Selige in around 1816. Whilst the tune may well have originated in Sicily, there is no evidence that it had anything to do with mariners.

The European Magazine printed it for two unspecified vocal parts (presumably Soprano and Alto), with an instrumental bass. In this edition, the instrumental bass has been adapted for bass voices, and the tenor part has been supplied editorially.

Editorial emendations:

Soprano, bars 3 and 11, note 2 : crotchet = quaver

Instrumental bass, bar 23 : c = e