

*Affectionately dedicated to Mark and Angela, Venetia, Camilla and Drusilla, in memory of Edmund*

# O iter fortissimum

Text from Sequence for the Holy Spirit  
by Hildegard of Bingen

James Burton

**Gently flowing** ♩ = 66  
*mp*

S  
A  
O it - er for - tis - si - mum, quod pe - ne - tra - vit om - ni - a in al

T  
B

S  
A  
O it - er for - tis - si - mum, quod pe - ne - tra - vit om - ni - a in al

T  
B

5

Choir I  
- tis - si - mis et in ter - re - nis et in om - ni - bus a - bys - sis, tu

Choir II  
- tis - si - mis et in ter - re - nis et in om - ni - bus a - bys - sis, tu

## O iter fortissimum

O iter fortissimum, quod penetravit  
omnia in altissimis et in terrenis  
et in omnibus abyssis,  
tu omnes componis et colligis.

De te nubes fluunt, ether volat,  
lapides humorem habent,  
aque rivulos educunt,  
et terra viriditatem sudat.

Tu etiam semper educis doctos  
per inspirationem Sapientie letificatos.

Unde laus tibi sit, qui es sonus laudis  
et gaudium vite, spes et honor fortissimus,  
dans premia lucis.

Amen.

Oh most certain path, you who pierce  
all things in the highest peaks and in the earth's spaces  
and in every part of the deep,  
you gather and bind everything together.

At your will the clouds rush onwards, the air takes wing,  
stones sweat with dew,  
waters flow into trickling springs,  
and earth perspires with fresh green life.

You are the constant teacher of the learned,  
those who rejoice at the inspiration of Wisdom.

And so may you receive praise, you who are the very sound of praise  
and the joy of life, hope and the strongest honour,  
you who give the blessings of light.

Amen.

Text from Sequence for the Holy Spirit (D 158, R 473r) by Hildegard of Bingen.

Translation by Venetia Bridges.

*Commissioned by Edmund's Trust, a charity set up by the family of Edmund Bridges  
in his memory to support the causes which mattered to him*

*First performed on 9 November 2024 by the Choir of New College, Oxford, directed by Robert Quinney*