

# SUSPENSION:

## A SERIES OF MUSICAL REFLECTIONS

### No:2

My second recommendation is 'Venite sitientes ad aquas' by Claudio Monteverdi, an Italian composer, musician and priest who lived in the 16<sup>th</sup> Century. This cheerful motet is often performed during Lent, and we would describe this kind of music as 'polyphonic' because of its two interweaving vocal lines. Like much of the music of its time it uses a sacred text as its basis; in this case, the two texts are a combination of Isaiah 55, Proverbs 9:5 and Song of Songs. These two vocal lines are accompanied by 'continuo', a word which refers to the bass accompaniment instruments that formed the basis of much music in the Baroque period during which this was composed.

The translation from Latin is:

"Come, come, to the waters all you who thirst, for the Lord. Make haste to obtain this milk and honey which no silver can buy. Come, let us drink the wine which imparts to you ineffable wisdom. Eat, drink, friend, of this divine honey and milk. Because God's love is better than wine which consoles the world."

Now, I promise I'm not trying to make some thinly-veiled reference to panic-buying or stock-piling! These words truly are just a reminder that, even in the darkest or most difficult of times, we are not alone. God does not leave us to fend for ourselves but sustains us with his gifts.

**Something to listen out for in this piece:** the alternating moods. The initial section has a bouncy, dance-like feel with 2 beats in each bar. This is countered by a sadder-sounding series of slow descending fragments, now with two beats in each bar.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Bd68IEZnpJI>

Enjoy.  
Sarah