

Scripture and History

"**Dona Nobis Pacem**" (Ecclesiastical Latin for "**Grant us Peace**") is a song often sung as a canon. The words occur in the Agnus Dei section of the Latin Mass. The origin of the melody is unknown. Most hymnals list it as "traditional."

Dona Nobis Pacem
(Translation: Give Us Peace)

Pronounced Don-na No-beece Pah-chem Traditional

1
Do - na no - bis pa - cem. pa - cem. Do - na no - bis pa - cem.

2
Do - na no - bis pa - cem. Do - na no - bis pa - cem.

3
Do - na no - bis pa - cem. Do - na no - bis pa - cem.

A **canon** in music is a contrapuntal (counterpoint-based) compositional technique or texture that employs a melody with one or more imitations of the melody played after a given duration (e.g., quarter rest, one measure, etc.). The initial melody is called the leader (or *dux*), while the imitative melody, which is played in a different voice, is called the follower (or *comes*). The follower must imitate the leader, either as an exact replication of its rhythms and intervals or some transformation thereof as in "Dona Nobis Pacem."

Repeating canons in which all voices are musically identical are called rounds. "Row, Row, Row Your Boat" is a round.

Wikipedia