

Claudio Monteverdi – Vespers of 1610

1. Deus in Adjutorium.

Ps. 69 (70), 1

Deus, in adjutorium meum intende:
Domine, ad adjuvandum me festina.

Gloria Patri et Filio et Spiritui Sancto.

Sicut erat in principio, et nunc, et semper,
et in sæcula sæculorum. Amen.

Alleluja.

O God, make speed to deliver me: [*to save us - BCP*]
O Lord, make haste to help me. [*us*]

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,
world without end. Amen.

Alleluia.

2. Dixit Dominus.

Ps. 109 (110)

Dixit Dominus Domino meo:
Sede a dextris meis: donec ponam inimicos tuos
scabellum pedum tuorum.

Virgam virtutis tuæ emittet Dominus ex Sion:
dominare in medio inimicorum tuorum.

Tecum principium in die virtutis tuæ
in splendoribus sanctorum:
ex utero ante luciferum genui te.

Juravit Dominus, et non pœnitebit eum:
tu es sacerdos in æternum
secundum ordinem Melchisedech.

Dominus a dextris tuis
confregit in die iræ suæ reges.

Judicabit in nationibus, implebit ruinas:
conquassabit capita in terra multorum.

De torrente in via bibet¹:
propterea exaltabit caput.

Gloria Patri et Filio et Spiritui Sancto.

Sicut erat in principio, et nunc, et semper,
et in sæcula sæculorum. Amen.

The Lord said unto my Lord,
sit thou on my right hand, until I make thine enemies
thy footstool.

The Lord shall send out the rod of thy strength from Zion:
be thou ruler even in the midst of thine enemies.

At thy beginning in thy day of glory
in the splendour of the holy places,
before the first light I begat thee.

The Lord hath sworn, and will not repent:
thou art a priest for ever
after the order of Melchisedech.

The Lord upon thy right hand
shall destroy kings in the day of his wrath.

He shall judge among the heathen, fill them with the dead,
and smite in sunder the heads over many countries.

He shall drink of the brook in the way:
therefore shall he lift up his head.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,
world without end. Amen.

3. Nigra Sum. *Cant.cant. 1,4; [2,3;] 2,11-12*

Nigra sum sed formosa filia² Jerusalem.

Ideo dilexit me rex
et introduxit in cubiculum suum et dixit mihi:

Surge, amica mea, et veni.
Jam hiems transiit, imber abiit, et recessit.

Flores apparuerunt in terra nostra,
tempus putationis advenit.

I am a black but comely daughter of Jerusalem.

Therefore the king hath delighted in me
and brought me to his chamber and said to me:

Rise up, my love, and come [*away*].
For lo, the winter is past, the rain is over and gone;

Flowers have appeared in our land, [*appear on the earth*]
the time of pruning is at hand.

4. Laudate Pueri Domine.

Ps. 112 (113)

Laudate, pueri, Dominum:
laudate nomen Domini.

Sit nomen Domini benedictum,
ex hoc nunc, et usque in sæculum.

A solis ortu usque ad occasum,
laudabile nomen Domini.

Excelsus super omnes gentes Dominus,
et super cœlos gloria ejus.

Quis sicut Dominus Deus noster, qui in altis habitat,
et humilia respicit in cœlo et in terra?

Suscitans a terra inopem,
et de stercore erigens pauperem:

Ut collocet eum cum principibus,
cum principibus populi sui.

Qui habitare facit sterilem in domo,
matrem filiorum lætantem.

Gloria Patri et Filio et Spiritui Sancto.

Sicut erat in principio, et nunc, et semper,
et in sæcula sæculorum. Amen.

Praise the Lord, ye servants:
O praise the name of the Lord.

Blessed be the name of the Lord,
from this time forth for evermore.

From the rising of the sun unto the going down of the same,
the Lord's name [*is to*] be praised.

The Lord is high above all nations,
and his glory above the heavens.

Who is like the Lord our God, who dwelleth on high,
and yet respecteth humbly what is in heaven and earth?

He taketh up the simple out of the dust,
and lifteth the poor out of the dunghill [*mire*].

That he may set him with princes,
even the princes of his people.

Who maketh the barren woman to keep house,
[*and to be*] a joyful mother of children.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,
world without end. Amen.

Notes by John Kilpatrick

¹ All the 1610 part-books have *bibit*, a Latin error arising from confusion with the other, correct, futures ending in *-it*.

² *filix* in the Vulgate; *filia* in the tenor part-book and correct in a Marian context; *Nigra* = suntanned: *cf.* the Black Madonna.

5. Pulchra Es.**Cant.cant. 6, 3-4**

Pulchra es, amica mea,
suavis et decora filia Jerusalem.

Pulchra es, amica mea, suavis et decora sicut
Jerusalem, terribilis ut castrorum acies ordinata.

Averte oculos tuos a me,
quia ipsi me avolare fecerunt.

Thou art beautiful, O my love,
a sweet and comely daughter of Jerusalem.

Thou art beautiful, my love, sweet and comely as
Jerusalem, terrible as an army arrayed for battle.

Turn away thine eyes from me,
for they make me flee away. [*have overcome me*]

6. Lætatus Sum.**Ps. 121 (122)**

Lætatus sum in his, quæ dicta sunt mihi:
in domum Domini ibimus.

Stantes erant pedes nostri, in atriis tuis, Jerusalem.

Jerusalem, quæ ædificatur ut civitas:
cujus participatio ejus in idipsum.

Illuc enim ascenderunt tribus,
tribus Domini testimonium Israël
ad confitendum nomini Domini.

Quia illic sederunt sedes in judicio,
sedes super domum David.

Rogate quæ ad pacem sunt Jerusalem:
et abundantia diligentibus te.

Fiat pax in virtute tua:
et abundantia in turribus tuis.

Propter fratres meos, et proximos meos,
loquebar pacem de te:

Propter domum Domini Dei nostri,
quæsivi bona tibi.

Gloria Patri et Filio et Spiritui Sancto.

Sicut erat in principio, et nunc, et semper,
et in sæcula sæculorum. Amen.

I was glad when they said unto me:
we will go into the house of the Lord.

Our feet shall stand in thy gates, O Jerusalem.

Jerusalem, [that was] is built as a city
that is at unity with itself.

For thither the tribes go up,
even the tribes of the Lord, to testify unto Israël,
to give thanks unto the name of the Lord.

For there are the seats of judgement,
even the seat of the house of David.

O pray for the peace of Jerusalem:
they shall prosper that love thee.

Peace be within thy walls,
and plenteousness within thy palaces.

For my brethren and my companions' sakes,
I will wish thee peace. [*prosperity*]

Yea, because of the house of the Lord our God,
I will seek to do thee good.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,
world without end. Amen.

7. Duo Seraphim. Is. 6,3; Joh.Epist.I. 5,7-8

Duo Seraphim clamabant alter ad alterum:
Sanctus, sanctus, sanctus, Dominus Deus Sabaoth.
Plena est omnis terra gloria ejus.

Tres sunt, qui testimonium dant in cælo:
Pater, Verbum et Spiritus Sanctus:
et hi tres unum sunt.

Sanctus, sanctus, sanctus, Dominus Deus Sabaoth.
Plena est omnis terra gloria ejus.

Two seraphim cried one to another:
Holy, holy, holy is the Lord God of Sabaoth.
The whole earth is full of his glory.

There are three who bear witness in heaven:
the Father, the Word, and the Holy Spirit:
and these three are one.

Holy, holy, holy is the Lord God of Sabaoth.
The whole earth is full of his glory.

8. Nisi Dominus.**Ps. 126 (127)**

Nisi Dominus ædificaverit domum,
in vanum laboraverunt qui ædificant eum.

Nisi Dominus custodierit civitatem,
frustra vigilat qui custodit eam.

Vanum est vobis ante lucem surgere:
surgite postquam sederitis,
qui manducatis panem doloris.

Cum dederit dilectis suis somnum:
ecce, hæreditas Domini filii:
merces, fructus ventris.

Sicut sagittæ in manu potentis:
ita filii excussorum.

Beatus vir qui implevit desiderium suum ex ipsis:
non confundetur cum loquetur
inimicis suis in porta.

Gloria Patri et Filio et Spiritui Sancto.

Sicut erat in principio, et nunc, et semper,
et in sæcula sæculorum. Amen.

Except the Lord build the house,
they labour in vain who build it. [*their labour is but lost that built it*]

Except the Lord keep the city,
the watchman waiteth in vain.

It is but lost labour that ye haste to rise up before dawn:
and so late take rest,
ye who have eaten the bread of sorrows;

For so he giveth his beloved sleep.
Lo, children are an heritage of the Lord;
a reward, the fruit of the womb.

Like as the arrows in the hand of the mighty [*giant*],
even so are the children of outcasts [*young children*].

Blessed [*Happy*] is the man that hath his quiver full of them:
they shall not be ashamed when they confront [*speak with*]
their enemies in the gate.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,
world without end. Amen.

9. Audi Cœlum.

Audi, cœlum, audi verba mea plena desiderio et perfusa gaudio.	- audio	Hear, O heaven, hear my words full of longing and pervaded by joy.	- I hear
Dic, quæso, mihi: Quæ est ista quæ consurgens ut aurora rutilat, ut benedicam?	- dicam	Tell me, I pray, who is she that shines like the dawn in her rising, that I might bless her?	- I will tell
Dic nam ista pulchra ut luna, electa ut sol, replet lætitia terras, cœlos, maria.	- maria	Tell me, for she, beautiful as the moon, radiant as the sun, fills with joy the earth, heavens and seas.	- Mary
Maria virgo illa dulcis prædicta de propheta Ezekiel, porta orientalis ³ ?	- talis	Mary, that sweet virgin foretold by the prophet Ezekiel, the gateway to the East?	- even she
Illa sacra et felix porta per quam mors fuit expulsa introducta ⁴ autem vita?	- ita	That sacred and happy portal through which death was driven out and life brought in?	- even so
Quæ semper tutum est medium inter homines ⁵ et Deum pro culpis remedium?	- medium	She who is always a sure intermediary between men and God, the cure for our sins?	- the mediator
Omnes hanc ergo sequamur qua cum gratia mereamur vitam æternam. Consequamur.	- sequamur	Let us all therefore follow her through whose grace we may be granted eternal life. Let us go with her.	- let us follow
Præstet nobis Deus, Pater hoc et Filius et Mater cujus nomen invocamus dulce miseris solamen.	- amen	May God help us, God the Father, and the Son, and the Mother on whose sweet name we call as a comfort to the wretched.	- amen
Benedicta es, virgo Maria, in sæculorum sæcula.		Thou art blessed, virgin Mary, for ever and ever.	

10. Lauda Jerusalem. Ps. 147 (147, 12-20)

Lauda, Jerusalem, Dominum: lauda Deum tuum, Sion.		Praise the Lord, O Jerusalem; praise thy God, O Zion.	
Quoniam confortavit seras portarum tuarum: benedixit filiis tuis in te.		For he hath strengthened [<i>made fast</i>] the bars of thy gates; and hath blessed thy children within thee.	
Qui posuit fines tuos pacem: et adipe frumenti satiat te.		He maketh peace in thy borders, and filleth thee with the finest [<i>flour of</i>] wheat.	
Qui emittit ⁶ eloquium suum terræ: velociter currit sermo ejus.		He sendeth forth his commandment upon earth; and his word runneth very swiftly.	
Qui dat nivem sicut lanam: nebulam sicut cinerem spargit.		He giveth snow like wool; and scattereth the hoar-frost like ashes.	
Mittit crystallum suam sicut buccellas: ante faciem frigoris ejus quis sustinebit?		He casteth forth his ice like morsels; who is able to abide his frost?	
Emittet verbum suum, et liquefaciet ea: flabit spiritus ejus, et fluent aquæ.		He sendeth out his word, and melteth them; he bloweth with his spirit [<i>wind</i>], and the waters flow.	
Qui annunciat verbum suum Jacob: justitias et judicia sua Israël.		He sheweth his word unto Jacob, his statutes and ordinances unto Israël.	
Non fecit taliter omni nationi: et judicia sua non manifestavit eis.		He hath not dealt so with any nation; neither have the heathen knowledge of his laws.	
Gloria Patri et Filio et Spiritui Sancto.		Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.	
Sicut erat in principio, et nunc, et semper, et in sæcula sæculorum. Amen.		As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.	

11. Sonata Sopra "Sancta Maria".

Sancta Maria, ora pro nobis.	Holy Mary, pray for us.
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³ The Eastern Gate of Jerusalem faces the Mount of Olives.

⁴ *introduxit* in the tenor part-book; *introducta* in the quintus; *-cta* is the more correct.

⁵ *hominis* in the tenor part-book; *hominem* in the quintus; *-nes* (meaning men or mankind) would be correct.

⁶ *emittet* in the cantus part-book; *-it* elsewhere.

12. Ave Maris Stella.

Ave maris stella,
Dei Mater alma
Atque semper Virgo
Felix cœli porta.

Sumens illud Ave
Gabrielis ore,
Funda nos in pace,
Mutans Evæ nomen⁷.

Solve vincla reis,
Profer lumen cæcis,
Mala nostra pelle,
Bona cuncta posce.

Monstra te esse matrem,
Sumat per te preces,
Qui pro nobis natus,
Tulit esse tuus.

Virgo singularis,
Inter omnes mitis,
Nos culpis solutos,
Mites fac et castos.

Vitam præsta puram,
Iter para tutum,
Ut videntes Jesum
Semper collætetur.

Sit laus Deo Patri,
Summo Christo decus,
Spiritui Sancto
Trinus⁸ honor unus. Amen.

Hail, star of the sea,
bountiful mother of God
and ever Virgin,
happy gate of heaven.

Taking that Ave
from the mouth of Gabriel,
preserve us in peace,
giving Eve a new name.

Loose the chains of the bound,
bring light to the blind,
drive out our ills, [*take away our sins*]
invoke all things good [*for all blessings pray*].

Show thyself to be a mother,
may he who was born for us
receive our prayers through thee.

Unique virgin,
more gentle than all,
absolve us from sin and
make us gentle and pure.

Grant us a pure life,
prepare a safe way,
that in seeing Jesus
we may rejoice for ever.

Praise be to God the Father,
glory to Christ on high,
and with the Holy Spirit
one triple honour [*one honour in three*]. Amen.

13. Magnificat.

Luc. 1, 46-55

Magnificat anima mea Dominum:
et exultavit spiritus meus in Deo salutari meo.

Quia respexit humilitatem ancillæ suæ:
ecce enim ex hoc
beatam me dicent omnes generationes.

Quia fecit mihi magna qui potens est:
et sanctum nomen ejus.

Et misericordia ejus a progenie in progenies
timentibus eum.

Fecit potentiam in brachio suo:
dispersit superbos mente cordis sui.

Deposuit potentes de sede,
et exaltavit humiles.

Esurientes implevit bonis:
et divites dimisit inanes.

Suscepit Israël puerum suum, recordatus misericordiæ suæ.

Sicut locutus est ad patres nostros,
Abraham et semini ejus in sæcula.

Gloria Patri et Filio et Spiritui Sancto.

Sicut erat in principio, et nunc, et semper,
et in sæcula sæculorum. Amen.

My soul doth magnify the Lord,
and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my saviour.

For he hath regarded the lowliness of his handmaiden:
for behold from henceforth
all generations shall call me blessed.

For he that is mighty hath magnified me,
and holy is his name.

And his mercy is on them that fear him
throughout all generations.

He hath shewed strength with his arm;
he hath scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts.

He hath put down the mighty from their seat,
and hath exalted the humble and meek.

He hath filled the hungry with good things,
and the rich he hath sent empty away.

He remembering his mercy hath sustained [*holpen*] his servant
Israel.

As he promised to our forefathers,
Abraham and his seed for ever.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,
world without end. Amen.

⁷ *Mutans nomen* can mean, just as in English, to rearrange the letters (Eva to Ave), or to “give a new name” as in redemption.

⁸ In some modern editions *Trinus*, which is in all the part-books, has been changed unnecessarily to *Tribus*.