

Vespers of 1610 – Monteverdi

English Translation by Sara Aguilar & John Kilpatrick

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.

God, come to my help:
Lord, hurry to help me.

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

As it was in the beginning, is now, and always shall be,
for ever and ever. Amen.

Allelujah.

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 to my Lord:
sit at my right hand, until I put your enemies
as a footstool at your feet.

The Lord will send the rod of your strength from Zion
to rule in the midst of your enemies.

With you the beginning in the day of your strength
in the splendour of the holy places:
I begot you from the womb before the first light.

The Lord swore, and will not regret it:
you are a priest for evermore
according to the order of Melchisedech.

The Lord at your right hand
destroyed kings in the day of his anger.

He will judge the nations, will fill them with ruins,
will shatter heads in many lands.

He will drink from the torrent in the way:
thereby will he hold 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 always shall be,
for ever and ever. 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 beautiful daughter of Jerusalem.

Therefore the king loved me
and led me to his chamber and said to me:

Rise, my love, and come.

The winter has now passed, the rain is over and gone;

Flowers have appeared in our land,
the time of pruning has come.

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.

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

May the name of the Lord be blessed,
from now and for ever.

From the rising of the sun to its setting,
the name of the Lord is to be praised.

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

Who is like the Lord our God, who lives on high,
and shows regard for the humble in heaven and earth?

Raising the destitute from the dust,
and lifting the poor from the dung.

To place him with princes,
with the princes of his people.

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

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

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.

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.

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 iudicio,
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.

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 cœlo:
Pater, Verbum et Spiritus Sanctus:
et hi tres unum sunt.

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

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.

Who makes the barren woman to keep house,
a happy 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 always shall be,
for ever and ever. Amen.

You are beautiful, my love,
a charming and graceful daughter of Jerusalem.

You are beautiful, my love, charming and graceful like
Jerusalem, terrible like an army arrayed for battle.

Turn your eyes from me,
for they make me flee.

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

Our feet were standing in your halls, Jerusalem.

Jerusalem, that was built as a city
that is at one with itself.

For there the tribes went up,
the tribes of the Lord, witnesses of Israel,
to thank the name of the Lord.

For there were the seats of judgement,
the seats of the house of David.

Pray for peace in Jerusalem
and wealth for those who love you.

May there be peace in your walls
and wealth in your palaces

On behalf of my brothers, and my neighbours,
I sought peace from you.

On behalf of the house of the Lord our God,
I sought goods for you.

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

As it was in the beginning, is now, and always shall be,
for ever and ever. Amen.

Two Seraphim cried to each other:
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.

Unless the Lord were to build the house,
in vain would labour those who build it.

Unless the Lord were to guard the city,
in vain would watch the man who guards it.

It is pointless for you to rise before dawn:
get up after you have rested,
you who eat the bread of suffering;

Once he has given sleep to his chosen.
Behold, children are the inheritance of the Lord:
a reward, the fruit of the womb.

Just as arrows in the hands of the powerful,
so are the sons of outcasts.

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.

9. Audi Cælum.

Audi, cælum, audi verba mea plena
desiderio et perfusa gaudio.

Audio

Blessed is the man who filled his desire from them:
he will not be confounded when he confronts
his enemies at 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 always shall be,
for ever and ever. Amen.

Dic, quæso, mihi: Quæ est ista
quæ consurgens ut aurora rutilat,
ut benedicam?

Dicam

Hear, O heaven, hear my words full
of longing and suffused by joy.

I hear

Tell me, I beg: who is she
that shines like the rising dawn,
so that I might bless her?

I will tell

Dic nam ista pulchra ut luna,
electa ut sol, replet lætitia
terras, cœlos, maria.

Maria

Tell, for she, beautiful as the moon,
exquisite as the sun, fills with joy
the earth, the heavens and the seas.

Mary

Maria virgo illa dulcis prædicta de
propheta Ezechiel, porta orientalis³?

Talis

Mary, that sweet virgin foretold by the
prophet Ezechiel, the gate of the East?

Even she

Illa sacra et felix porta per
quam mors fuit expulsa
introducitur⁴ autem vita?

Ita

That sacred and happy portal through
which death was expelled
but life brought in?

Even so

Quæ semper tutum est medium
inter homines⁵ et Deum
pro culpâ remedium?

Medium

Who is always a sure mediator
between man 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 merit eternal life.
Let us follow together.

Let us follow

Præstet nobis Deus, Pater hoc et Filius
et Mater cujus nomen invocamus dulce
miseris solamen.

Amen

May God help us, the Father, and the Son,
and the Mother whose name we invoke,
a sweet solace to the wretched.

Amen

Benedicta es, virgo Maria,
in sæculorum sæcula.

You are blessed, virgin Mary,
for ever and ever.

10. Lauda Jerusalem.

Ps. 147

Lauda, Jerusalem, Dominum:
lauda Deum tuum, Sion.

Praise the Lord, Jerusalem:
praise your God, Zion.

Quoniam confortavit seras portarum tuarum:
benedixit filiis tuis in te.

For he strengthened the bars of your gates:
he blessed your sons inside you.

Qui posuit fines tuos pacem:
et adipe frumenti satiat te.

He settled peace in your borders,
and the best wheat fills you.

Qui emittit⁶ eloquium suum terræ:
velociter currit sermo ejus.

He sends his commandment to the earth:
his word runs swiftly.

Qui dat nivem sicut lanam:
nebulam sicut cinerem spargit.

He gives snow like wool:
he spreads mist like ash.

Mittit crystallum suam sicut buccellas:
ante faciem frigoris ejus quis sustinebit?

He sends his ice like morsels:
in the face of his cold who will stand?

Emittet verbum suum, et liquefaciet ea:
flabit spiritus ejus, et fluent aquæ.

He will send out his word, and will melt them:
his spirit will blow, and the waters will flow.

Qui nunciavit verbum suum Jacob:
justitias et judicia sua Israël.

He announces his word to Jacob:
his laws and judgements to Israel.

Non fecit taliter omni nationi:
et judicia sua non manifestavit eis.

He did not do so to all nations
and his judgements were not manifest to them.

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 always shall be,
for ever and ever. Amen.

³ The Eastern Gate of Jerusalem faces the Mount of Olives.

⁴ *introducitur* in the tenor part-book; *introducitur* 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.

11. Sonata Sopra “Sancta Maria”.

Sancta Maria, ora pro nobis.

Holy Mary, pray for us.

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,
Spiritu^j 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,
strengthen us in peace,
giving Eve a new name.
Loose the chains of the accused,
bring light to the blind,
drive out our ills,
invoke everything good.
Show that you are a mother;
may he receive through you our prayers,
who, born for us,
came to be yours.
Unique virgin,
gentle among all,
make us, absolved from our sins,
gentle and chaste.
Grant us a pure life,
prepare a safe journey,
so that, seeing Jesus,
we may always rejoice together.
Praise be to God the Father,
glory to Christ on high,
with the Holy Spirit
a single three-fold honour. Amen.

13. Magnificat.

Luc. 1,46-55

- | | | |
|----|--|---|
| 1 | Magnificat anima mea Dominum: | My soul magnifies the Lord, |
| 2 | et exultavit spiritus meus in Deo salutari meo. | and my spirit has rejoiced in God my saviour. |
| 3 | Quia respexit humilitatem ancillæ suæ:
ecce enim ex hoc
beatam me dicent omnes generationes. | For he saw the humility of his servant:
for behold from now
all generations will call me blessed. |
| 4 | Quia fecit mihi magna qui potens est:
et sanctum nomen ejus. | For he that is powerful empowered me,
and his name is sacred. |
| 5 | Et misericordia ejus a progenie in progenies
timentibus eum. | And his compassion is towards those who fear him
from generation to generation. |
| 6 | Fecit potentiam in brachio suo:
dispersit superbos mente cordis sui. | He showed strength with his arm:
he scattered the arrogant in the conceit of their hearts. |
| 7 | Deposuit potentes de sede,
et exaltavit humiles. | He removed the powerful from their seats,
and elevated the humble. |
| 8 | Esurientes implevit bonis:
et divites dimisit inanes. | He filled the hungry with good things,
and dismissed the rich empty-handed. |
| 9 | Suscepit Israël puerum suum,
recordatus misericordiæ suæ. | He accepted his servant Israel,
as a reminder of his compassion. |
| 10 | Sicut locutus est ad patres nostros,
Abraham et semini ejus in sæcula. | As he said to our fathers,
Abraham and his descendants for ever. |
| 11 | Gloria Patri et Filio
et Spiritui Sancto. | Glory be to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit. |
| 12 | Sicut erat in principio, et nunc, et semper,
et in sæcula sæculorum. Amen. | As it was in the beginning, is now, and always shall be,
for ever and ever. 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*.