

## Vespers of 1610 – Monteverdi

English Translation by John Kilpatrick (biblical sections based on King James Bible)

### 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.

Make haste, O God, to deliver me:  
make haste, O Lord, 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 ever shall be,  
without end. 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 bibet<sup>1</sup>:  
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 make thine enemies  
thy footstool.

The Lord shall send out the rod of thy strength from  
Zion: rule thou 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 at thy right hand  
shall destroy kings in the day of his wrath.

He shall judge among the nations, fill them with the  
dead, and smash heads in many lands.

He shall drink of the brook in the way:  
thus shall he raise 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,  
without end. Amen.

### 3. Nigra Sum.

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

Nigra sum sed formosa filia<sup>2</sup> 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:

Arise, my love, and come.

For the winter is passed, the rain is over and gone;

Flowers have appeared in our land,  
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.

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

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

From the rising to the setting of the sun,  
the Lord's name 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,  
Yet respecteth humbly what is in heaven and earth?

He raiseth the simple from the dust,  
and lifteth the poor from the mire.

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

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

<sup>2</sup> *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 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.

### 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 maketh the barren woman to keep house,  
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,  
without end. Amen.

Thou art beautiful, 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 thine eyes from me,  
for they make me flee away.

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

Our feet shall stand in thy gates, O Jerusalem.

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

For thither the tribes go up,  
the tribes of the Lord, to the testimony of Israël,  
to give thanks to the name of the Lord.

For there are the seats of judgement,  
the thrones of the house of David.

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

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

For my brethren, and my companions,  
I will seek peace for thee.

For 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,  
without end. Amen.

Two seraphim cried to one 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.

Unless the Lord build the house,  
they labour in vain who build it.

Except the Lord keep the city,  
he watcheth in vain who keepeth it.

It is vain for you to rise before dawn:  
rise later,  
ye who have eaten the bread of sorrows;

When he will give sleep to his chosen.  
Lo, children are an heritage of the Lord;  
a reward, the fruit of the womb.

As arrows in the hands of the mighty,  
thus are the children 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 whose quiver is full of them:  
they shall not be ashamed when they confront  
their enemies in the way.

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,  
without end. 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 pervaded by joy.

*I hear*

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, beauteous as the moon,  
radiant as the sun, fills with joy the earth,  
heavens and seas.

*Mary*

Maria virgo illa dulcis prædicta de  
propheta Ezechiel, porta orientalis<sup>3</sup>?

*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  
introducitur<sup>4</sup> 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<sup>5</sup> et Deum  
pro culpæ 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*

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 the bars of thy gates;  
he 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 wheat.

Qui emittit<sup>6</sup> eloquium suum terræ:  
velociter currit sermo ejus.

He sendeth his commandment to the earth;  
his word runneth swiftly.

Qui dat nivem sicut lanam:  
nebulam sicut cinerem spargit.

He giveth snow like wool;  
he scattereth hoar frost like ashes.

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

He casteth forth his ice like morsels;  
before his cold who can stand?

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

He sendeth out his word, and melteth them;  
his spirit blows, and the waters flow.

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

He sheweth his word unto Jacob,  
his statutes and judgements to Israël.

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

He hath not dealt so with any nation;  
and his judgments he hath not made manifest.

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,  
without end. Amen.

<sup>3</sup> The Eastern Gate of Jerusalem faces the Mount of Olives.

<sup>4</sup> *introducitur* in the tenor part-book; *introducitur* in the quintus; *-cta* is the more correct.

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

<sup>6</sup> *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 nomen<sup>7</sup>.

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<sup>j</sup> Sancto  
Trinus<sup>8</sup> 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,  
invoke all things good.

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

Singular 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. Amen.

## 13. Magnificat.

*Luc. 1,46-55*

- |    |  |   |
|----|--|---|
| 1  | Magnificat anima mea Dominum:  | My soul doth magnify the Lord,  |
| 2  | et exultavit spiritus meus in Deo salutari meo.  | and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my saviour.  |
| 3  | Quia respexit humilitatem ancillæ suæ:<br>ecce enim ex hoc<br>beatam me dicent omnes generationes. | For he hath regarded the lowliness of his handmaiden:<br>for behold from henceforth<br>all generations shall call me blessed. |
| 4  | Quia fecit mihi magna qui potens est:<br>et sanctum nomen ejus.                                    | For he that is mighty hath done great things to me,<br>and holy is his name.  |
| 5  | Et misericordia ejus a progenie in progenies<br>timentibus eum.                                    | And his mercy is on them that fear him<br>from generation to generation.  |
| 6  | Fecit potentiam in brachio suo:<br>dispersit superbos mente cordis sui.                            | He hath shewed strength with his arm;<br>he hath scattered the proud of heart.  |
| 7  | Deposuit potentes de sede,<br>et exaltavit humiles.  | He hath put down the mighty from their seat,<br>and hath exalted the lowly.   |
| 8  | Esurientes implevit bonis:<br>et divites dimisit inanes.   | He hath filled the hungry with good things,<br>and the rich he hath sent empty away.  |
| 9  | Suscepit Israël puerum suum,<br>recordatus misericordiæ suæ.                                       | He hath sustained Israël his servant,<br>remembering his mercy.   |
| 10 | Sicut locutus est ad patres nostros,<br>Abraham et semini ejus in sæcula.                          | As he promised to our forefathers,<br>Abraham and his seed for ever.  |
| 11 | Gloria Patri et Filio<br>et Spiritui Sancto.   | Glory be to the Father and to the Son<br>and to the Holy Spirit.  |
| 12 | Sicut erat in principio, et nunc, et semper,<br>et in sæcula sæculorum. Amen.                      | As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,<br>without end. Amen.  |

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

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