

CONVIVIVM
RECORDS

O BEATA VIRGO MARIA

Renaissance & Contemporary
Choral Works *performed by*
luminatus & David Bray



TRACKLIST

Music by:

Luca Marenzio 1553/4-1559 (track 1), Francisco Guerrero 1528-1599 (tracks 2-7),
Tiburcio Massaino c. 1550-1608 (tracks 8-13), Melissa Dunphy b. 1980 (tracks 14-15),
Kerensa Briggs b. 1991 (track 16), Cecilia McDowall b. 1951 (tracks 17-18).

| | | |
|----|--|--------------|
| 1 | Iste sanctus pro lege | 02:55 |
| | Missa Iste Sanctus: | |
| 2 | - i. Kyrie | 02:19 |
| 3 | - ii. Gloria | 04:32 |
| 4 | - iii. Credo | 08:08 |
| 5 | - iv. Sanctus | 02:29 |
| 6 | - v. Benedictus | 02:44 |
| 7 | - vi. Agnus Dei | 03:25 |
| | O Beata Virgo Maria: | |
| 8 | - Prima pars, O beata virgo Maria | 03:38 |
| 9 | - Seconda Pars, Accipe tamen dignanter | 02:17 |
| 10 | - Tertia pars, Admitte piissima dei genetrix preces nostras. | 02:05 |
| 11 | - Quarta pars, Accipe quod offerimus. | 02:06 |
| 12 | - Quinta pars, Sancta Maria | 02:30 |
| 13 | - Ultima pars, Assiste parata votis poscentium | 03:46 |
| 14 | Magnificat for St Paul's Burlingame | 07:00 |
| 15 | Nunc Dimittis for St Paul's Burlingame | 03:37 |
| 16 | Alma Redemptoris Mater | 04:10 |
| 17 | St Pancras Canticles: Magnificat | 09:10 |
| 18 | St Pancras Canticles: Nunc Dimittis | 05:49 |
| | Total running time | 72:46 |

PROGRAMME NOTE

O BEATA VIRGO MARIA

Renaissance & Contemporary Choral Works

This album features relatively unfamiliar and previously unrecorded music written by contemporary female composers, and Renaissance composers. The repertoire features several texts based on a Marian theme.

Luca Marenzio (1553 or 1554 to 1599) spent most of his career in Rome where he produced a small amount of sacred music and was a highly regarded composer of madrigals. The short motet *Iste Sanctus*, seemingly intended as a Magnificat antiphon,

was first published in 1585 as part of the *Motectorum pro festis totius anni* collection and utilises many features common within contemporary madrigal writing.

Tiburcio Massaino (before 1550 to after 1608) was an Augustinian monk in Piacenza, Maestro di Cappella at Sancta Maria del Popolo in Rome, and worked in Modena, Lodi, Sal, Innsbruck and Salzburg. *O Beata Virgo Maria* was published in 1576 as part of the *Motectorum liber primus*, setting a text by Fulbert of Chartres.

PROGRAMME NOTE

The music has six sections, and utilises combinations of up to six vocal parts. It uses madrigal-like homophonic and polyphonic sections, with strong rhythmic flexibility, cross-rhythms and some antiphonal effects.

The Spanish composer **Francisco Guerrero** (1528 – 1599) worked at Jaen, Seville and travelled widely, including a trip to the Holy Land. The *Missa Iste Sanctus* was published in the *Missarum liber secundus* in 1582 following a year spent in Italy. The mass reflects a mature polyphonic style, interspersed with homophonic sections and its use of word painting is exceptionally effective. The setting includes a five-part setting of the *Agnus Dei*, shaped around a canon between the upper voices.

Melissa Dunphy (born 1980), is Australian, but now lives in the United States. The *Magnificat* and *Nunc Dimittis* was commissioned to celebrate the life of Marcia McCowin (1952 – 2020) and first performed at St Paul's, Burlingame, California. The music is often modal, creating a mood of calm contemplation.

Both movements have a beautiful tranquil quality, punctuated by moments of intense passion.

In 2014 **Cecilia McDowall** (born 1951) won the British Composer Awards in the Choral category and in 2020 she was gifted the prestigious Ivor Novello Award for her 'consistently excellent body of work'. *St Pancras Canticles* was commissioned by the London Festival of Contemporary Church Music in 2017. It is written for five voices, with contrasting sections featuring the Phrygian dominant mode, with more static sections focused on the tonal centre of D. There is wonderfully expressive word painting throughout.

Kerensa Briggs (born 1991) is currently Composer in Residence for St Louis Chamber Chorus. Her interest in choral music stems from singing in choirs, including the choir of King's College London, where she held a Choral Scholarship. *Alma Redemptoris Mater* is a four part setting, which splits into eight voices at key points and features a mezzo solo. The music features an ethereal, restless and lush harmonic language.

TEXTS & TRANSLATIONS

Iste Sanctus

Iste sanctus pro lege Dei sui
Certavit usque ad mortem
et a verbis impiorum non timuit
Fundatus enim erat supra firmam petram.

This saint strove even unto death
for the principles of his God
and feared nothing from the words of the wicked;
for he was founded on a sure rock.

Missa Iste Sanctus

Kyrie

Kyrie eleison.
Christe eleison.
Kyrie eleison.

Lord, have mercy.
Christ, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy.

Gloria

Gloria in excelsis Deo.
Et in terra pax hominibus bonae voluntatis.
Laudamus te. Benedicimus te.
Adoramus te. Glorificamus te.
Gratias agimus tibi propter magnam gloriam tuam.
Domine Deus, Rex caelestis,
Deus Pater omnipotens.
Domine Fili unigenite, Iesu Christe.
Domine Deus, Agnus Dei, Filius Patris.
Qui tollis peccata mundi, miserere nobis.

Glory be to God on high,
and on earth peace, good will towards men.
We praise thee, we bless thee,
we worship thee, we glorify thee,
we give thanks to thee for thy great glory,
O Lord God, heavenly King,
God the Father Almighty.
O Lord, the only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ;
O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,
that takest away the sins of the world, have mercy
upon us.

Qui tollis peccata mundi,
suscipe deprecationem nostram.

Thou that takest away the sins of the world,
receive our prayer.

TEXTS & TRANSLATIONS

Qui sedes ad dexteram Patris,
miserere nobis.
Quoniam tu solus Sanctus. Tu solus Dominus.
Tu solus Altissimus, Iesu Christe.
Cum Sancto Spiritu, in gloria Dei Patris.
Amen.

Credo

Credo in unum Deum.
Patrem omnipotentem,
factorem caeli et terrae,
visibilium omnium et invisibilium.
Et in unum Dominum
Jesum Christum,
Filium Dei unigenitum,
Et ex Patre natum ante omnia saecula.
Deum de Deo, lumen de lumine,
Deum verum de Deo vero.
Genitum, non factum,
consubstantialem Patri:
per quem omnia facta sunt.
Qui propter nos homines
et propter nostram salutem
descendit de caelis.
Et incarnatus est de Spiritu Sancto
ex Maria Virgine:
Et homo factus est.

Thou that sittest at the right hand of God the Father,
have mercy upon us.
For thou only art holy; thou only art the Lord;
thou only, O Christ, with the Holy Ghost,
art most high in the glory of God the Father.
Amen.

I believe in one God,
the Father almighty,
Maker of heaven and earth,
and of all things visible and invisible.
And in one Lord,
Jesus Christ,
Only begotten Son of God,
Begotten of his Father before all worlds.
God of God, light of light,
Very God of very God.
Begotten, not made,
being of one substance with the Father:
by whom all things were made.
Who for us men
and for our salvation
came down from heaven.
And was incarnate by the Holy Ghost
of the Virgin Mary:
And was made man.

TEXTS & TRANSLATIONS

Crucifixus etiam pro nobis sub Pontio Pilato:
passus, et sepultus est.

Et resurrexit tertia die,
secundum scripturas.
Et ascendit in caelum:
sedet ad dexteram Patris.
Et iterum venturus est
cum gloria judicare vivos et mortuos:
Cujus regni non erit finis.

Et in Spiritum sanctum Dominum,
et vivificantem:
Qui ex Patre, Filioque procedit.
Qui cum Patre, et Filio simul adoratur,
et conglorificatur:
Qui locutus est per Prophetas.

Et unam, sanctam, catholicam
et apostolicam Ecclesiam.
Confiteor unum baptisma
in remissionem peccatorum.
Et expecto resurrectionem mortuorum
Et vitam venturi saeculi.
Amen.

And was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate:
suffered, and was buried.

And the third day He rose again
according to the scriptures.
And ascended into heaven,
and sitteth at the right hand of the Father
And He shall come again
with glory to judge the living and the dead:
His kingdom shall have no end.

And (I believe in) the Holy Ghost, Lord
and giver of life:
Who proceedeth from the Father and Son.
Who with the Father and Son
together is worshipped and glorified:
Who spake by the Prophets.

And in one holy catholic
and apostolic church.

I acknowledge one baptism
for the remission of sins.
And I look for the resurrection of the dead
And the life of the world to come.
Amen.

TEXTS & TRANSLATIONS

Sanctus

Sanctus, Sanctus, Sanctus,
Dominus Deus Sabaoth.
Pleni sunt coeli et terra gloria tua.
Osanna in excelsis.

Holy, holy, holy
Lord God of Hosts.
Heaven and earth are full of thy glory.
Hosanna in the highest.

Benedictus

Benedictus qui venit
in nomine Domini.
Hosanna in excelsis.

Blessed is he who comes
in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.

Agnus Dei

Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi,
miserere nobis.
Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi,
miserere nobis.
Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi,
dona nobis pacem.

Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world,
have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world,
have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world,
grant us peace.

TEXTS & TRANSLATIONS

O Beata Virgo Maria

Prima pars

O beata virgo Maria, quis digne tibi valeat iura
gratiarum
ac laudum praeconia rependere,
quae singulari tuo assensu,
mundo succurristi perditio?
Quas tibi laudes fragilitas humani generis persolvat,
quae solo tuo commercio recuperandi aditum
invenit?

Secunda pars

Accipe tamen dignanter Virgo benigna
quascumque exiles,
quascumque meritisque tuis impares nostrae
tenuitates
gratiarum actiones,
et cum susceperis vota,
culpae nostras orando apud filium tuum dominum
et iudicem nostrum excusa.

The first part

O Blessed Virgin Mary, who could possibly pay you
the praise,
thanks and honour you deserve,
you who rescued our lost world through your
approval alone?
What songs of praise could our frail human souls
pay to you, you who found the means of restoring
us to grace through your intervention alone?

The second part

Nevertheless, kindly Virgin, accept with grace
whatever meagre thanks we offer,
however paltry and unequal to your merits;

when you receive our prayers,
seek pardon for our sins,
beseeching on our behalf before your son –
our lord and our judge.



TEXTS & TRANSLATIONS

Tertia pars

Admitte piissima dei genetrix preces nostras
intra sacrarium tue exauditionis
et reporta nobis antidotum reconciliationis.
Sit per te excusabile quod per te ingerimus;

fiat impetrabile quod fida mente poscimus.

Quarta pars

Accipe quod offerimus, redona quod rogamus,
excusa quod timemus, quia Tu es spes unica
peccatorum.

Per te speramus veniam delictorum et in te,
beatissima, nostrorum est expectatio praeiorum.

Quinta pars

Sancta Maria, succurre miseris;
iuva pusillanimes;
refove debiles; ora pro populo;
interveni pro clero; intercede pro devoto
femineo sexu:
sentiant omnes tuum iuvamen,
quicumque celebrant tuam sanctam
commemorationem.

The third part

Most holy Mother of God, carry our prayers to be
heard within the sanctuary of heaven and bring
back for us the remedy for our reconciliation.
May the sins we put before God be pardoned
through you;
and may what we ask with trusting hearts be
granted through you.

The fourth part

Accept these offerings we bring and grant what
we ask of you;
Rid us of our fears, for you are the only hope for
us sinners;
Through you we hope for forgiveness for our sins;
And in you, most blessed one, is our hope
of reward.

The fifth part

Holy Mary, give help to those in misery; help the
faint-hearted;
Cherish the weak; pray for our people;
Intervene for the priesthood; intercede for women
devoted to you;
May all those who celebrate your holy
remembrance feel now your support.

TEXTS & TRANSLATIONS

Ultima pars

Assiste parata votis poscentium

et repende omnibus optatum effectum.

Sit tibi cura assidue, orare pro populo Dei,

quae meruisti benedicta, precium ferre mundi

sit tibi compassio et pius super caelorum
peregrinis affectus,

custodi nos ne cadamus fove ne deficiamus
adiuva ut vincamus,

Salva nos ne pereamus.

The final part

Be ready to respond the prayers of those who
beseech you;

And bring back for everyone the response they
long for;

Let it be your everlasting care to pray for God's
people,

You who deserved to be blessed and to carry the
redeemer of the world;

May you show compassion and true affection for
the pilgrims to the heavens above;

Guard us lest we fall; cherish us lest we fail; help
us to overcome;

Save us lest we perish.

TEXTS & TRANSLATIONS

Magnificat

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 eius,
et misericordia eius 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 Israel puerum suum recordatus
misericordiæ suæ,
sicut locutus est ad patres nostros, Abraham et
semini eius 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.
Because he hath regarded the humility of his
handmaid:
for behold from henceforth all generations shall
call me blessed.
Because he that is mighty hath done great things
to me: and holy is his name.
And his mercy is from generation unto
generations, to them that fear him.
He hath shewed might in his arm:
he hath scattered the proud in the conceit of their heart.

He hath put down the mighty from their seat and
hath exalted the humble.
He hath filled the hungry with good things: and the
rich he hath sent empty away.
He hath received Israel his servant, being mindful
of his mercy.
As he spoke to our fathers: to Abraham and to his
seed for ever.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son: and to the
Holy Ghost;
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall
be: world without end. Amen.

TEXTS & TRANSLATIONS

Nunc Dimittis

Nunc dimittis servum tuum, Domine, secundum
verbum tuum in pace:
Quia viderunt oculi mei salutare tuum
Quod parasti ante faciem omnium populorum:

Lumen ad revelationem gentium, et gloriam plebis
tuæ Israel.

Gloria Patri, et Filio, et Spiritui Sancto:

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

Alma Redemptoris Mater

Alma Redemptoris Mater,
quæ pervia caeli porta manes,
et stella maris,
succurre cadenti,
urgere qui curat, populo:
tu quæ genuisti,
natura mirante, tuum sanctum Genitorem
Virgo prius ac posterius,
Gabrielis ab ore sumens illud Ave,
peccatorum miserere.

Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace:
according to thy word.
For mine eyes have seen: thy salvation,
Which thou hast prepared: before the face of all
people;
To be a light to lighten the Gentiles: and to be the
glory of thy people Israel.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son: and to the
Holy Ghost;
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall
be: world without end. Amen.

Loving Mother of the Redeemer,
who remains the accessible Gateway of Heaven,
and Star of the Sea,
Give aid to a falling people
that strives to rise;
O Thou who begot thy holy Creator,
while all nature marvelled,
Virgin before and after
receiving that "Ave" from the mouth of Gabriel,
have mercy on sinners.

Translations by David Tristram

Luminatus is a vocal ensemble which gives performances in the East Midlands and East of England. It is a small, but flexible group, specialising in relatively unknown Renaissance music and contemporary repertoire.

Soprano

Hannah Littleton*
Eve McGrath
Isobel Collyer
Caroline Trutz
Anna Bolton
Catherine Warren
Claire Cockcroft
Alison Daniels
Meg Webb
Annie Howard

Alto

Tenor

Bass

Sam Madden**
Giles Turner
Adrian Green
Philip Leech
Chris Williams
Richard Ball
David Smith
Jeremy Burrows

* Soloist in tracks 16 and 17

** Cantor in tracks 3,4 and 7





David Bray is a trumpet player, composer, arranger, author, music editor and for ten years was the County Music Adviser in Northamptonshire. He has conducted national and international prize-winning choirs and other ensembles around the UK, on national television and radio.

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O Beata Virgo Maria

Renaissance & Contemporary Choral Works

ARTISTS

Choir

luminatus

Director

David Bray

PRODUCTION

Producer

George Richford

Design

Mike Cooter

Engineering

Adaq Khan

Executive Producer

Adrian Green

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