

Camille Saint-Saëns: Oratorio de Noël

1. Orchestral prelude

2. Recitativ and chorus

Et pastores erant, in regione eadem vigilantes, et custodientes vigilias noctis super gregem suum. Et ecce Angelus Domini stetit juxta illos, et claritas Dei circumfulsit illos, et timuerunt timore magno. Et dixit illis angelus: Nolite timere! Ecce enim evangelio vobis gaudium magnum, quot erit omni populo: quia natus est vobis hodie Christus Dominus in civitate David. Et hoc vobis signum: Invenietis infantem pannis involutum, et positum in praeseptio. Et subito facta est cum Angelo multitudo militiae coelestis, laudantium Deum, et dicentium: Gloria in altissimis Deo, et in terra pax hominibus bonae voluntatis.

And in the same region there were shepherds keeping vigil and watching their flocks by night. And behold, an angel of the Lord stood beside them, and the glory of God shone around them, and they were filled with great fear. And the angel said to them: Be not afraid! For behold, I bring you glad tidings of great joy which will be for all people; for to you is born today Christ the Lord in the City of David. And this shall be a sign for you: you will find a babe wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger. And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying: Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to men of goodwill. (Luke 2: 8-14)

3. Aria

Expectans expectavi Dominum; et intendit mihi.

I waited with longing for the Lord, and he turned to me (Psalms 130:5, 69:16)

4. Aria & chorus

Domine, ego credidi, quia tu es Christus, filius Dei visi. Qui in nunc mundum venisti.

Lord, I have believed that you are the Christ, the Son of the living God, who has come into this world. (John 6:69, 5:20)

5. Duo

Benedictus qui venit in nomine Domini! Deus Dominus, et illuxit nobis. Deus meus es tu, et confitebor tibi. Deus meus es tu, et exaltabo te.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. God is the Lord and has given us light. You are my God, and I shall trust in you. You are my God, and I will exalt you. (Matthew 21:9, Psalms 118:27, 99:9)

6. Chorus

Quare fremuerunt gentes? Et populi meditati sunt inania? Gloria Patri, gloria Filio, gloria Spiritui Sancto! Sicut erat in principio et nunc et semper et in saecula saeculorum. Amen.

Why do the heathens rage? and the people think vain thoughts? Glory to the Father, glory to the Son, glory to the Holy Spirit! As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen. (Psalms 2:1; old church hymn.)

7. Trio

Tecum principium in die virtutis tuae. Tecum principium in splendoribus Sanctorum.

With you the beginning on the day of your strength, with you the beginning in the splendors of the saints. (Daniel 7:27)

8. Quartet

Alleluja. Laudate, coeli, et exulta, terra, quia consolatus est Dominus populum suum; et pauperum suorum miserebitur.

Hallelujah, praise you heavens, and exult, you earth, for the Lord has comforted his people and will have mercy on his poor.

9. Quintet & chorus

Consurge, Filia Sion. Alleluja. Lauda in nocte, in principio vigiliarum. Alleluja. Egrediatur ut splendor justus Sion, et Salvator ejus ut lampas accendatur. Alleluja.

Rise, you daughter of Zion. Hallelujah. Praise at night, at the beginning of the night watch. Hallelujah. May the Righteous One go out from Zion in splendor, may its Savior shine like a lamp. Hallelujah. (Psalms 119:148, 37:6)

10. Chorus

Tollite hostias, et adorate Dominum in atrio sancto ejus. Laetentur coeli, et exultet terra a facie Domini, quoniam venit. Alleluja.

Bring offerings and worship the Lord in his holy habitation. Let the heavens rejoice and the earth exult in the presence of the Lord, for he has come. Hallelujah. (Psalms 5:7, 69:34, 100:2)