

Editor's Notes for "Laetatus Sum"

Here is "Laetatus Sum", Eslava's beautiful music setting for Psalm 122, which begins: "I rejoiced with those who said to me, Let us go to the house of the Lord". Arranged similarly to his "Beatus Vir" (which I have also edited) in terms of instrumentation and voicings, as well as the way he spells his name on the cover sheet (with the Basque spelling of his surname, using a 'b'), have led me to conclude that this piece was likely written at about the same time, circa 1833, not long after Eslava arrived in Sevilla. The score I worked from was an unsigned manuscript, a copy of which was provided by Eresbil, the Basque Music Archives.

As I transcribed this manuscript, I felt that he must have been working to a deadline, as he took numerous notational shortcuts, and the score contained obvious musical errors and mistakes in the lyrics (including a short section where the lyrics were missing altogether), along with a paucity of dynamics (especially with regard to tempo), all a little unusual for meticulous Don Hilarión. I suspect he figured he could direct his musicians and choir (who were likely quite skilled) through such shortcomings.

I have done my best to correct errors, fill in gaps, and abide by Eslava's probable musical intent. As is typical for me, I have hidden most of my dynamic interpretations that vary from Eslava's original score, so as to avoid unduly influencing anyone who might perform this music in the future. However, you can hear such subtleties in the synthesized rendition of the piece.

LATIN LYRICS:

Laetatus sum in his, quae dicta sunt mihi:
In domum Domini íbimus.
Stantes erant pedes nostri in atriis tuis, Jerusalem;
Jerusalem, quae aedificatur ut civitas,
cuius participatio ejus in idipsum.
Illuc enim ascenderunt tribus,
tribus Domini, testimonium Israel,
ad confitendum nomini Domini.
Quia illic sederunt sedes in iudicio,
sedes super domum David.
Rogate quae 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
quaesivi bona tibi,

Gloria Patri, et Filio, et Spiritui Sancto,
Sicut erat in principio, et nunc,
et semper, et in saecula saeculorum. Amen.

ENGLISH TRANSLATION:

I rejoiced with those who said to me,
“Let us go to the house of the LORD.”
Our feet are standing
in your gates, Jerusalem.
Jerusalem is built like a city
that is closely compacted together.
That is where the tribes go up—
the tribes of the LORD—
to praise the name of the LORD
according to the statute given to Israel.
There stand the thrones for judgment,
the thrones of the house of David.
Pray for the peace of Jerusalem:
May those who love you be secure.
May there be peace within your walls
and security within your citadels.
For the sake of my family and friends,
I will say, “Peace be within you.”
For the sake of the house of the LORD our God,
I will seek your prosperity.

Glory be to the Father, and Son, and Holy Spirit,
As it was in the beginning, is now,
and forever shall be, amen.