

Editor's Notes for *Christus Factus Est para el Gradual de la Misa de Jueves Santo*

Here is another of Eslava's musical interpretations of "Christus factus est" ("Christ became obedient"). The lyrics, from Saint Paul's Epistle to the Philippians, are used as a gradual (hymn) in the Roman Catholic liturgy of the mass. Traditionally sung on Maundy Thursday, in 1969 it became employed also as a hymn on Palm Sunday. It may also be sung daily at the conclusion of *Tenebrae* (Matins and Lauds) on the last days of Holy Week.

Many composers have set this gradual to music, and Eslava composed several different versions of it. He wrote at least two *Miserere* cantatas for Holy Week (which have been transcribed by others), and used the "Christus Factus Est" gradual as the first movement in these. I have previously transcribed another version that is much more elaborate from an instrumental perspective (see https://musescore.com/rebecca_rufin/christus-factus-est-christ-became-obedient). Although the text is identical the musical framework for each version is completely different, and the dramatic tone of this one is really quite spectacular in its own right.

My transcription source was a barely legible set of handwritten individual parts, and I doubt this work was ever formally published. One of the peculiarities in this piece had to do with the time values in the opening measure, a theme repeated at several points. There was a great degree of inconsistency within and between parts as to whether the first eighth note was undotted, dotted or double-dotted, and also whether there was a rest between the first eighth and the following 1/16 (or 1/32) note. Had I transcribed it exactly as written, it would have resulted in a very muddy sound that I doubt Eslava intended. I therefore typically adjusted these to reflect the pattern in the majority of instruments wherever I encountered the sequence. Anybody desiring to perform this piece may want to revisit my source material and reconsider my choice in this regard.

For more about Eslava and his music, visit <https://hilarioneslava.org/home/home-en/>

LATIN LYRICS:

Christus factus est pro nobis obediens
usque ad mortem, mortem autem crucis.
Propter quod et Deus exaltavit illum et dedit illi nomen,
quod est super omne nomen.

ENGLISH TRANSLATION:

Christ became obedient for us unto death,
even to the death, death on the cross.
Therefore God exalted Him and gave Him a name,
which is above all names.