

Editor's Notes for *Laudate Dominum*

Laudate Dominum is one of five choral works contained in a handwritten journal by Eslava. Although the title specifically reads "*Laudate Dominum a 4*", there are clearly eight singing parts that would appear to represent a double choir at first glance. No solo parts are formally indicated, but I surmise from the title that the first choir was probably intended to be for solo voices.

Other pieces that I have previously transcribed from Eslava's journal (Magnificat, Salmo Primero de Nona) may be found on this site. To the best of my knowledge, none of these works were ever formally published, and they all seem to lack composer's instructions that would have been necessary to create the intended performance. I suspect these pieces were never performed except under the direction of Eslava himself, who would have provided such instruction personally. In *Laudate Dominum*, there was not a single instruction provided for tempo, dynamics, intended solo parts, or even which instruments to use (except the Horn in D was clearly identified). Because of the complete lack of dynamic instruction, and the fact that the piece gets a bit monotonous at the same speed and volume level throughout, I have provided such notations based on my own instincts as to what Eslava may have intended. This should be kept in mind by anyone performing this piece, and they should exercise discretion around if or how they choose to follow my guidance.

Laudate Dominum is from Psalm 117, which with only two verses is the shortest of all of the Psalms. There are many musical settings for this Psalm, but I have never heard one quite like Eslava's. As is traditional when using Psalms for musical liturgy, this piece concludes with a version of the *Gloria Patri* that reflects the fugue-like structure of the rest of the piece.

Lyrics and translation:

Laudate Dominum, omnes gentes; laudate eum, omnes populi. Quoniam confirmata est super nos misericordia ejus, et veritas Domini manet in aeternum. Gloria Patri, et Filio, et Spiritui Sancto, sicut erat in principio, et nunc, et semper: et in Saecula saeculorum. Amen	Praise the Lord, all nations; praise him, all peoples. Certain is his love and mercy for us, and the faithfulness of the Lord endures forever. Glory to the Father, and Son, and Holy Ghost, As it was in the beginning, is now, and forever, world without end, Amen
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