

Editor's Notes for *Dixit Dominus*

"Dixit Dominus" ("The Lord said unto my Lord") is from Psalm 110 in the Old Testament (Psalm 109 in the Orthodox and Vulgate Bibles). It is considered both a royal psalm and a messianic psalm. This psalm is a cornerstone in Christian theology, as it is cited as proof of the plurality of the Godhead and Jesus' supremacy as king, priest, and Messiah. For this reason, Psalm 110 is frequently quoted or referenced in the New Testament.

The psalm is a regular part of Jewish, Catholic, Anglican, and Protestant liturgies. Because this psalm is prominent in the Office of Vespers, its Latin text has particular significance in music, and there are settings composed by the likes of Mozart, Handel, and Vivaldi. Eslava composed several settings as well.

This version of *Dixit Dominus* was painstakingly reconstructed from a low-resolution scan of a very faded handwritten manuscript, with many pages out of order and at least one page completely missing. It was almost illegible (if you're curious, you can view the source at https://www.dropbox.com/s/k6biq1atf0ykr2k/Eslava%20-%20Dixit%20Dominus%20for%20two%20choirs%20and%20orchestra%20repar_E-ESL02-R65.pdf?dl=0), but the resulting masterpiece was well worth the effort and time. To my knowledge, this piece was never published, and based on its condition, I doubt it has ever been played since ca 1850. Although it is not dated, based on its full orchestration and the jaunty, almost martial themes (that likely pushed the limits of what the religious authorities would tolerate), I suspect it is a somewhat later composition, perhaps during Eslava's tenure in the Royal Chapel of Madrid.

This rendering strikes a vivid contrast with the much gentler version I transcribed earlier this year, which you can find at https://musescore.com/rebecca_rufin/dixit-dominus-a-4 or elsewhere on <https://hilarioneslava.org/music/>. Although both pieces are beautiful, I find this elaborate work, likely written much later in Eslava's career, much more suitable for the actual text in Psalm 110 (Psalm 109 Vulgate), which is certainly not what I would ever think of as "gentle" (refer to the translation at bottom).

In the Eresbil-supplied file for *Dixit Dominus* (E-ESL02-R65), there are missing pages, as follows:

On page 14, a soprano is singing a solo part on the last measure, and on the next page 15 the first choir is already singing together several words farther on in the Psalm 110 text. The missing text is highlighted in red font below:

tuae in splen-**doribus sanctorum: ex utero, ante lu-**ciferum, genui te

On page 15, a tenor is singing a solo part on the last measure, and on the next page 16 the second choir is already singing what appears to be echo of the refrain started by the tenor. The text on this page most likely would consist of the tenor singing "(Ju)-**ravit dominus**", and the first choir beginning the word "**Ju-**(ravit)" in the final measure.

I have not been able to locate this missing text on any other page in the score, so I don't think it's a case of the pages being out of order. I have done my best to fill in the missing parts. The additions are clearly marked on the edited score.

<p>1 Dixit Dominus Domino meo: Sede a dextris meis, donec ponam inimicos tuos scabellum pedum tuorum.</p> <p>2 Virgam virtutis tuae emittet Dominus ex Sion: dominare in medio inimicorum tuorum.</p> <p>3 Tecum principium in die virtutis tuae in splendoribus sanctorum: ex utero, ante luciferum, genui te.</p> <p>4 Juravit Dominus, et non poenitebit eum: Tu es sacerdos in aeternum secundum ordinem Melchisedech.</p> <p>5 Dominus a dextris tuis; confregit in die irae suae reges.</p> <p>6 Judicabit in nationibus, implebit ruinas; conquassabit capita in terra multorum.</p> <p>7 De torrente in via bibet; propterea exaltabit caput.</p>	<p>1 The LORD says to my lord, "Sit at my right hand until I make your enemies your footstool."</p> <p>2 The LORD sends out from Zion your mighty scepter. Rule in the midst of your foes.</p> <p>3 With you is the principality in the day of your strength, in the brightness of the saints: From the womb, before the day star, I begot you.</p> <p>4 The LORD has sworn and will not change his mind, "You are a priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek."</p> <p>5 The Lord is at your right hand; he will shatter kings on the day of his wrath.</p> <p>6 He will execute judgment among the nations, filling them with corpses; he will shatter heads over the wide earth.</p> <p>7 He will drink from the stream by the path; therefore he will lift up his head.</p>
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