

Editor's Notes for *Letanía y Regina*

Here is another musical setting of the “Litany of Loreto”, written for a small male chorus with simple organ accompaniment. Unlike the double choir with orchestral accompaniment I transcribed earlier this year (see https://musescore.com/rebecca_rufin/letan-a-en-mi-litany-in-e or <https://hilarioneslava.org/music/>), this is the sort of piece that a small church could tackle.

The *Litany of Loreto* is used to honor Mary, the Mother of God, invoking various titles for her, reminding us of the role she plays in the Christian (especially Catholic) faith. Most likely the Litany was composed in or around Paris between the years 1150 and 1200. It gets its name from the Italian shrine (Loreto) where it was adopted in 1558. Pope Sixtus V approved its use in public worship in 1587. The Litany is used especially during May services, the month traditionally dedicated to the Blessed Virgin Mary. It is also used at Benediction and some congregations use it in the Divine Office. The Litany is approved for public use and carries a partial indulgence.

The Litany incorporates praises addressed to Mary found extensively in the writings of the early Church Fathers of the first six centuries. Over time, a number of titles for our Lady were removed or added to the Litany. Originally the Litany had fifteen additional titles, such as Our Lady of Humility, Mother of Mercy, Temple of the Spirit, Gate of Redemption, and Queen of Disciples. Recent history has seen the addition of five titles. Therefore, several titles (advocations) of the Litany which refer to the Assumption, the Rosary and Mary as the Queen of Peace are of recent origin, as well as some added as recently this year, not found in this Litany, which was likely written in the mid-1800's. That said, the advocacy “Regina sine labe concepta” was added to the Litany of Loreto in 1883 and appears in the source manuscript, whereas Eslava died in 1878. Meanwhile, the advocacy “Regina sanctorum omnium”, from the original Litany and which would have occurred at the same point in the piece prior to 1883, is absent from these lyrics. Consequently, I believe the source manuscript was adapted from an earlier manuscript by Eslava, with the 1883 advocacy substituted for the original text. It would have been difficult to insert the line in any other way. I have added the older advocacy to the score (in parentheses), to reflect the way this piece was probably sung at the time of its original composition.

The piece concludes with the “Regina Caeli”, one of four Marian hymns/antiphons traditionally said or sung after night prayer, immediately before going to sleep. It is used throughout Eastertide (from Easter Day through Pentecost, the seventh Sunday after Easter). This section could be performed on its own.

As is often typical of the handwritten manuscripts of Eslava's work, there was little to no instruction provided regarding tempo or dynamics in the source material. What little I have included in this score was based on my own interpretation. Also, although the section with the various advocations involves 5 repeats to get through all of them, I have only programmed in a single repeat. Otherwise it can get a bit monotonous with the midi-synthesized sounds.

LITANIAE LAURETANAE Kyrie, eleison. Christe, eleison. Kyrie, eleison. Christe, audi nos.	LITANY OF LORETO Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Christ, hear us.
---	--

<p>Christe, exaudi nos. Pater de caelis, Deus, miserere nobis. Fili, Redemptor mundi, Deus, miserere nobis. Spiritus Sancte, Deus, miserere nobis. Sancta Trinitas, unus Deus, miserere nobis.</p> <p>Sancta Maria, ora pro nobis. <i>(repeats after each of the following phrases)</i></p> <p>Sancta Dei Genetrix, Sancta Virgo virginum, Mater Christi, Mater divinae gratiae Mater purissima, Mater castissima, Mater inviolata, Mater intemerata, Mater immaculada, Mater amabilis, Mater admirabilis, Mater Creatoris, Mater Salvatoris, Virgo prudentissima, Virgo veneranda, Virgo praedicanda, Virgo potens, Virgo clemens, Virgo fidelis, Speculum iustitiae, Sedes sapientiae, Causa nostrae laetitiae, Vas spirituale, Vas honorabile, Vas insigne devotionis, Rosa mystica, Turris Davidica, Turris eburnea, Domus aurea, Foederis arca, Ianua caeli, Stella matutina, Salus infirmorum, Refugium peccatorum, Consolatrix afflictorum, Auxilium Christianorum, Regina Angelorum, Regina Patriarcharum, Regina Prophetarum,</p>	<p>Christ, graciously hear us. God the Father of heaven, have mercy on us. God the Son, Redeemer of the world, have mercy on us. God the Holy Spirit, have mercy on us. Holy Trinity, one God, have mercy on us.</p> <p>Holy Mary, pray for us. <i>(repeats after each of the following phrases)</i></p> <p>Holy Mother of God, Holy Virgin of virgins, Mother of Christ, Mother of divine grace, Mother most pure, Mother most chaste, Mother inviolate, Mother undefiled, Mother most amiable, Mother most lovable, Mother most admirable, Mother of our Creator, Mother of our Savior, Virgin most prudent, Virgin most venerable, Virgin most renowned, Virgin most powerful, Virgin most merciful, Virgin most faithful, Mirror of justice, Seat of wisdom, Cause of our joy, Spiritual vessel, Vessel of honor, Singular vessel of devotion, Mystical rose, Tower of David, Tower of ivory, House of gold, Ark of the covenant, Gate of heaven, Morning star, Health of the sick, Refuge of sinners, Comforter of the afflicted, Help of Christians, Queen of Angels, Queen of Patriarchs, Queen of Prophets,</p>
---	--

Regina Apostolorum,
Regina Martyrum,
Regina Confessorum,
Regina Virginum,
(Regina Sanctorum omnium,)
Regina sine labe originali concepta,

Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi, parce nobis,
Domine.
Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi, exaudi nos,
Domine.
Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi, miserere
nobis.

REGINA CAELI

Regina caeli, laetare, alleluia;
Quia quem meruisti portare, alleluia,
Resurrexit, sicut dixit, alleluia:
Ora pro nobis Deum, alleluia.

Queen of Apostles,
Queen of Martyrs,
Queen of Confessors,
Queen of Virgins,
(Queen of all Saints,)
Queen conceived without sin,

Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world,
spare us, O Lord.
Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world,
graciously hear us, O Lord.
Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world, have
mercy on us.

QUEEN OF HEAVEN

Queen of Heaven, rejoice, alleluia.
For He whom you did merit to bear, alleluia.
Has risen, as he said, alleluia.
Pray for us to God, alleluia.