

Editor's Notes for *El Sagrado Convite a dos voces*

A “villancico” is a Spanish word for a traditional carol or hymn of praise. Although most people today tend to think of *villancicos* as being associated with the Christmas season, the term also applies to many other short sacred music pieces used during the course of the Christian calendar year. This particular *villancico* is dedicated to the Blessed Sacrament.

Here we have a duet version of a (perhaps older?) choral villancico that I had transcribed previously. Although the two versions are identical in terms of melody, there are some notable differences. The choral version was transcribed from a handwritten manuscript, whereas the source for this duet was actually printed (most likely by Eslava's nephew Bonifacio Eslava). This piece is scored for solo voices, and it is discretionary as to whether those voices are male or female (or both). It includes six verses – the first four verses are almost (but not quite) identical to the verses in the choral version, and the additional two verses could probably be added to the choral version if so desired (but I have not done so). The keyboard accompaniment is very similar as well, but lacks the contrabass present in the choral version.

Similar to the choral version, other than the fermatas and the main tempo designations (*Andante* and *Moderato*), there were almost no dynamics provided in the score. I therefore mostly retained the dynamics I had created for the choral version, and they are certainly subject to alternative interpretations.

CORO	CHORUS
<p>El sagrado convite recuerda las escenas de amor y piedad, con que Cristo ofreciendo su cuerpo, y su sangre nos vino a salvar.</p>	<p>The sacred invitation recalls the scenes of love and piety, with which Christ, offering his body and blood, came to save us,</p>
<p>1. Cantemos tu gloria, la frente humillando, Señor recordando tu inmensa bondad; salvarnos los hombres a ti lo debemos, y así celebremos tu amor y piedad.</p>	<p>1. Let us sing your glory, the brow humbling Lord remembering your immense kindness: Man's salvation to you we owe and let us thus celebrate your love and mercy.</p>
<p>2. Tu sangre inocente gustoso vertiste, lo mismo quisiste dolores sufrir, y penas y angustias también soportaste, y al fin acabaste Señor por morir.</p>	<p>2. Your innocent blood you gladly shed, You were willing to suffer the same pains, and sorrows and anguish you also endured, and in the end, Lord, you died.</p>
<p>3. El hombre tu hechura se goza en tu ejemplo, y admira en el templo tu imagen alzar; y tierno y ferviente de amor compungido, y a ti agradecido se pone a implorar.</p>	<p>3. The man you created rejoices in your example, and admires your image as it is lifted in the temple: And tender and fervent, filled with love, gratefully he implores you.</p>
<p>4. Tu nombre en sus preces, tristezas y llanto, pronuncia con santo grandioso fervor, y pues sucumbiste con tanta agonía, espera y confía sereno en tu amor.</p>	<p>4. Your name in his prayers, sorrows and weeping he utters with great holy fervor, and as you succumbed in such agony he awaits and trusts serenely in your love.</p>

5. Y siempre en la Iglesia sus penas mitiga
y allí la fatiga ya no es aflicción;
pues mira tu sangre gloriosa y querida,
tu cuerpo es su vida llorar devoción.
6. Tal es la ventura que en sólo un momento
por el sacramento alcanza el mortal;
bendito y loado tu nombre, Dios mío,
tu amor santo y pío, virtud sin igual.

5. And in the Church his sorrows are always lifted
and there fatigue is no longer affliction;
for behold your blood glorious and dear,
your body is his life to weep in devotion.
6. Such is the blessing that in a single moment
by the sacrament the mortal attains;
blessed and praised be your name, my God,
your holy and pious love, peerless virtue.