

Editor's Notes for "Te Deum a 4"

The *Te Deum* (from its incipit, *Te deum laudamus* "Thee, O God, we praise") is a Latin Christian hymn originally written in the 4th century. The term "Te Deum" can also refer to a short religious service, held to bless an event or give thanks, which is based upon the hymn.

Hilarión Eslava set this hymn to music at least twice, and I have already transcribed one version, which can be found on this webpage and at <https://musescore.com/user/29381772/scores/5844280> However, that was an elaborate choral/orchestral work for a specific occasion (a royal birth), and bears no resemblance to this set of (perhaps older) 14 short vignette pieces, each a separate element focused on a single line from the *Te Deum* prayer. These 14 pieces only represent about half of the total *Te Deum*, and Eslava seems to have basically used every other line of the text, omitting the other half entirely.

This work is flexible enough that it can be sung from beginning to end without pause, or it could be broken into sections, or simply choosing just a few of the short pieces to perform, dependent on what is needed in the service or occasion where used. Several of the pieces use the same accompaniment with different words: No.'s 1, 2, and 3, 4, & 6 use the same accompaniment as No.'s 7, 8, and 9, 12 & 13, respectively. No.'s 5, 10, and 14 all have different, unique accompaniments.

This work was transcribed from handwritten manuscripts obtained from two sources: Eresbil (Basque Music Archives) and Archivo de la Real Capilla de Palacio (the music archive of the Royal Chapel in Madrid, where Eslava was employed for many years). The Eresbil materials were incomplete, missing at least half of the choral parts. The manuscript from the Real Capilla was complete, with two versions of each vocal part, written in different hands. Comparing these various sources, there were many inconsistencies, contradictions, and mistakes to reconcile. Moreover, tempo and dynamic indications were sparse, and often conflicting. I have included the notations that made sense and were consistent among the various versions, supplementing dynamic indications to other parts when appropriate. However, in order to improve the synthesized rendition, I have also added dynamics and tempos that are not visible in the printed score.

LYRICS AND ENGLISH TRANSLATION

No.	Latin Lyrics	English Translation
1	Te Deum laudamus: te Dominum confitemur.	We praise thee, O God : we acknowledge thee to be the Lord.
2	Tibi omnes Angeli; tibi cæli et universae potestates.	To thee all Angels cry aloud; the Heavens, and all the Powers therein.
3	Sanctus, Sanctus, Sanctus, Dominus Deus Sabaoth.	Holy, Holy, Holy : Lord God of Sabaoth.
4	Te gloriosus Apostolorum chorus.	The glorious company of the Apostles praise thee.
5	Te Martyrum candidatus laudat exercitus.	The noble army of Martyrs praise thee.
6	Patrem immensæ majestatis.	The Father of an infinite Majesty;
7	Sanctum quoque Paraclitum Spiritum.	Also the Holy Ghost, the Comforter.
8	Tu Patris sempiternus es Filius.	Thou art the everlasting Son of the Father.

No.	Latin Lyrics	English Translation
9	Tu, devicto mortis aculeo, aperuisti credentibus regna cælorum.	When thou hadst overcome the sharpness of death, thou didst open the Kingdom of Heaven to all believers.
10	Judex crederis esse venturus. Te ergo quæsumus, tuis famulis subveni, quos pretioso sanguine redemisti.	We believe that thou shalt come to be our Judge, we therefore pray thee, help thy servants whom thou hast redeemed with thy precious blood.
11	Salvum fac populum tuum, Domine, et benedic hæreditati tuæ.	O Lord, save thy people: and bless thine heritage.
12	Per singulos dies benedicimus te.	Day by day we magnify thee.
13	Dignare, Domine, die isto sine peccato nos custodire.	Vouchsafe, O Lord to keep us this day without sin.
14	Fiat misericordia tua, Domine, super nos, quemadmodum speravimus in te.	O Lord, let thy mercy lighten upon us as our trust is in thee.