

Editor's Notes for *Beatam Me Dicent*

The *Magnificat*, also known as the Song of Mary, is a canticle traditionally incorporated into the liturgical services of the Catholic Church, the Eastern Orthodox churches, and the Anglican Communion. Its name comes from the incipit of the Latin version of the text in the Gospel of Luke (1:46–55), where it is spoken by Mary upon the occasion of her Visitation to her cousin Elizabeth. In the narrative, after Mary greets Elizabeth, who is pregnant with John the Baptist, the latter moves within Elizabeth's womb. Elizabeth praises Mary for her faith (using words that are partially reflected in the Hail Mary prayer), and Mary responds with what is referred to as the *Magnificat*. In some churches, the canticle is most frequently recited within the Liturgy of the Hours. In Catholicism, it is sung at Vespers. The *Magnificat* may also be sung during worship services, especially in the Advent season.

“Beatam Me Dicent” by Hilarión Eslava is an especially charming, lilting setting for just three of the verses in the *Magnificat*: namely, Luke 1:48-50. Here it is scored as a trio for soprano, alto and tenor, ideally best sung by three strong voices, as there are many grace notes and 16th note runs that would make it difficult for choral performance.

This work has been edited from a printed version produced by the Calcografía de Bonifacio Eslava in Madrid, a scanned copy of which was obtained from Eresbil (Basque Music Archives) in Errenteria, Spain. The composition date is unknown. A translation of the original Latin lyrics follows.

Latin Lyrics	English Translation
Beatam me dicent omnes generationes, quia fecit mihi magna qui potens est: et sanctum nomen ejus, et misericordia ejus a progenie in progenies timentibus eum.	All generations will call me blessed, for the Mighty One has done great things for me - holy is His name. His mercy extends to those who fear Him, from generation to generation.