

Editor's Notes for *Ecce Panis Angelorum*

This beautiful motet by Hilarión Eslava came to us as a handwritten score from the Cathedral of Calahorra in La Rioja, Spain. We immediately recognized it as essentially identical to the final motet in a set of six a cappella motets to the Blessed Sacrament that I have previously transcribed (CPE-369; see also <https://musescore.com/user/29381772/scores/6738327>). The difference here is that this piece includes accompaniment by a small orchestra, so I thought it worth transcribing as a separate piece. Indications are that this particular manuscript was manually copied circa 1915 by Fr. Leocadio Hernández Ascunce (1883-1965), Master of the Chapel of the Cathedral of Calahorra between 1911 and 1923, and also a prominent Eslava biographer. I suspect that Hernández Ascunce may be the author of the simple accompaniment, which basically is comprised of the choral parts, albeit sometimes in different octaves. Certainly, the accompaniment lacks the finesse I have come to associate with Eslava's original works, and also the horn part was completely erroneous, as if assembled by someone who was not accustomed to writing accompaniments for instruments with different pitches. I did my best to rewrite the horn part to what I believe was likely musically intended by its author, so in this edition it at least fits with the other parts.

The text comes from the final stanzas of the larger hymn "*Lauda Sion*", written by St. Thomas Aquinas before the year 1274. It is the sequence for *Corpus Christi*, the major Roman Catholic feast commemorating the Holy Eucharist.

For more about Eslava and his music, visit <https://hilarioneslava.org/eslava-bio/en/>

Latin Text	English Translation
Ecce Panis Angelorum, Factus cibus viatorum Vere panis filiorum, Non mittendus canibus.	Behold the Bread of Angels, made the Food of wayfarers, Truly the bread of children, not to be given to the dogs.
Tu qui cuncta scis et vales, Tuos ibi commensales, Coheredes et sodales Fac sanctorum civium. Amen.	Thou who knowest and willest all things, Make thine own to be partakers of, coheirs and citizens in that holy City of Saints. Amen.