

Editor's Notes for Videntibus Illis

The Ascension of Jesus is the Christian belief, reflected in the major Christian creeds and confessional statements, that Jesus ascended to Heaven after his resurrection, where he was exalted as Lord and Christ, sitting at the right hand of God. There is considerable ambiguity in the New Testament as to the Ascension timeline. Some writings imply resurrection and exaltation as a single event, with the Ascension generally assumed. Only Luke and Acts contain direct accounts of it, but with different chronologies. In the Catholic tradition, the Feast of the Ascension is celebrated on the 40th day of Easter, always a Thursday.

This brief, but beautiful, motet by Hilarión Eslava is based on Acts 1:9, the verse that describes Jesus ascending into the clouds. According to Acts, this occurs after Jesus being resurrected and spending 40 days with his disciples. It was written in 1833, soon after Eslava was appointed Master of the Chapel at the Cathedral in Sevilla. The transcription is from a digital copy of a manuscript procured from the archives of the Cathedral of Sevilla via the Institución Colombina

Sparsely orchestrated with only bass instruments and a figured bass organ part, this motet includes an elaborate *obbligato* part entitled "Bajo Obligado". The implication is that this part could be played with any bass instrument. Given that there were separate parts for violoncello, contrabass, organ, and *bajón* (an archaic predecessor of the bassoon), I chose to assign a Bassoon to this part in my transcription. However, any other bass instrument with a suitable range could be substituted.

As typical in Eslava's manuscripts, there was very little provided in terms of dynamics and tempo. The only dynamic indications provided were the *p* and *f* (piano and forte) found in measures 13-15 (the "*cres*" indications in these measures were added by me, since that would be consistent with Eslava's style in similar choral motets). I have rendered all other dynamic (and tempo) indications invisible in the score, as these reflect my interpretation and are therefore discretionary.

LATIN LYRICS	ENGLISH TRANSLATION
Videntibus illis elevatus est, et nubes suscepit eum ab oculis eorum.	He was taken up before their very eyes, and a cloud hid him from their sight.