

Editor's Notes for Ascendit Deus

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 joyful motet by Hilarión Eslava is based on Psalm 47:5 (Vulgate Psalm 46:5). It was written circa 1835, while a young Eslava was 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.

Beautifully orchestrated, with cheerful counterpoint melodies between the flutes and oboes echoed by the strings, this piece includes a glorious solo for a strong bass or baritone voice.

As is typical in Eslava's manuscripts, there was little guidance provided in terms of dynamics and tempo, and also some inconsistencies. I did my best to reconcile such discrepancies. I also added a few crescendos that were not mentioned in the score, but I strongly suspected that they were intended by the composer. Anyone using this music should consult the source manuscript if they are in doubt.

Latin Lyrics	English Translation
Ascendit Deus in jubilatione, et Dominus in voce tubae. Alleluia.	God is ascended in jubilation, and the Lord with the sound of the trumpet. Alleluia.