

Editor's Notes for *Cor mundum crea* (ACS sig. 38-1-1)

Psalm 50 of the Vulgate Bible (Psalm 51 in the English Revised Standard Version of the Bible) is a famous expression of penitence. It is believed to have been composed by King David as a confession to God after he was confronted by Nathan the Prophet with the sins he had committed by seducing Bathsheba (a beautiful woman married to the faithful soldier Uriah), arranging the death of Uriah, and taking Bathsheba as his wife.

This Psalm of contrition is also called "*The Miserere*" and has been used by the Catholic Church as part of the liturgy of Holy Week for centuries. It has been set to music by many composers, typically as a cantata, and Hilarión Eslava wrote about 10 different settings of it (that we know of), perhaps more. Of these, I have previously transcribed three settings, and we know of three additional settings that have been edited (and thoroughly analyzed) by others, including his best known "*Gran Miserere*" written for the Cathedral of Sevilla in 1835 and revised in 1837.

In comparing this piece to various versions of *Cor Mundum* found in Eslava's *Misereres*, we were unable to find a match. Although it could be part of a larger work we have not yet encountered, it could also be a stand-alone piece (for example, used as a gradual). One aspect that supports this conclusion is the nature of its accompaniment, a 4-part wind ensemble – very rare to find in Eslava's choral music. In fact, this is the first piece we have found that has accompaniment of this nature; for smaller accompanied works there are typically string ensembles, organ, or figured bass (that can be interpreted in several ways, but not as a wind quartet). We considered the possibility that there may be missing parts, but the cover page clearly states "*Cor mundum crea a 4 Voces con Clarinete, Trompa, Fagot, y Trombon*".

The source manuscript from the Cathedral of Sevilla (via the Institución Colombina) was undated, and relatively free of musical errors. The dynamics were sparsely indicated, and sometimes inconsistent or ambiguous. I did my best to make these consistent, and also added a few transitional *crescendos*, *diminuendos*, and *ritardandos* that seemed implied but were absent in the original manuscript.

PSALM 50:12 VULGATE (LATIN) LYRICS:

Cor mundum crea in me, Deus, et spiritum rectum innova in visceribus meis.

PSALM 51:10 REVISED STANDARD VERSION (ENGLISH) TRANSLATION:

Create in me a clean heart, O God, and put a new and right spirit within me.