

Editor's Notes for *Dixit Dominus en Sol*

UPDATE 4/24/24: Having now nearly four years additional experience studying Eslava's music and using MuseScore, and having completed four more of Eslava's unique settings of *Dixit Dominus*, I thought it worthwhile to revisit this earlier transcription. I have reworked it considerably.

The source document for this piece was an undated bound journal containing several works. I believe this journal must have been compiled very early in Eslava's career, perhaps during his first post at Burgo de Osma or maybe even during his earlier studies in Pamplona. In most cases, the journal lacked any dynamic notations, and the instruments and voices were not even labeled. I had to glean such information based on the staff notations. String instruments were fairly easy to identify due to range and the use of chords and tremolo. Vocal parts were generally obvious due to Eslava's use of C-clefs (often he would only include written lyrics for one of the voices). But identification of wind instruments was a bit more problematic. I had originally voiced the two C-instruments as flutes, but believe they were more likely oboes based on my transcriptions of other early Eslava works, where oboes were commonly used. I had originally voiced the bass instrument as a horn, but since this piece is in the key of G, I think it likelier that it was intended for bassoon or trombone, and it now uses a bassoon. I believe the bass accompaniment using figured bass notation was most likely intended for organ.

All the dynamic notations are my own, but I have changed them considerably from my first posting of this piece and left most choices invisible so as not to unduly influence the choices of others who may perform the piece.

And finally, I renamed the piece from "*Dixit Dominus a 4*" (its originally given title) to "*Dixit Dominus en Sol*". I did this because I found the "*a 4*" descriptor to be confusing given the piece clearly has eight separate choral voices, and adding the "*en Sol*" helps to differentiate this from other of Eslava's (dated) settings for this Psalm.

ORIGINAL NOTES: "*Dixit Dominus*" ("The Lord said unto my Lord") is from Psalm 110 in the Old Testament (Psalm 109 in the Orthodox and Vulgate Bibles). It is considered both a royal psalm and a messianic psalm. This psalm is a cornerstone in Christian theology, as it is cited as proof of the plurality of the Godhead and Jesus' supremacy as king, priest, and Messiah. For this reason, Psalm 110 is frequently quoted or referenced in the New Testament.

The psalm is a regular part of Jewish, Catholic, Anglican, and Protestant liturgies. Because this psalm is prominent in the Office of Vespers, its Latin text has particular significance in music, and there are settings composed by the likes of Mozart, Handel, and Vivaldi. Eslava composed several settings as well.

This version of *Dixit Dominus* is one of five choral works contained in a handwritten journal by Eslava. Although the title specifically reads "*Dixit Dominus a 4*", there are clearly eight singing parts that would appear to represent a double choir at first glance. No solo parts are formally indicated, but I surmise from the title that the first choir was most likely intended to be for solo voices.

To the best of my knowledge, none of the works in this particular journal were ever formally published, and they all seem to lack composer's instructions that would have been necessary to create the intended performance. Therefore, this *Dixit Dominus* was likely never performed except under the direction of Eslava himself, who would have provided such instruction personally. Because of the paucity of

instruction, I have made quite a few assumptions in the transcription process, which anybody performing this piece should bear in mind. These include:

1. Besides a preliminary scribble that could be read as *Andante* or an abbreviation of *Andantino* (I concluded *Andantino*), there were no tempo indications whatsoever. Any other variances in tempo through the remainder in the piece were added by me, simply because I felt they were needed.
2. There was no indication of solo voicings. Neither of the two sets of SATB clefs was marked as being either solo or choral intent.
3. None of the instrumental parts were actually labeled as being for the instruments I indicate. I have chosen the instruments based on the way they were notated and patterns observed in other Eslava works. I'm pretty positive about the violins, but the flutes could just have easily been oboes or even clarinets or perhaps a mix. The horn part was also unlabeled, and the bass part was labeled as "accompaniment". I believe Eslava likely played this himself on the organ, and it is provided with figured bass notation, but other bass instruments would probably work just as well.
4. The small notes I have shown in the bass accompaniment do not appear in the original score; rather they are my simple interpretation of the figured bass markings, which I added as a guide, and to verify whether I was reading the notations correctly (they were often illegible and/or erroneous).
5. There were only a few dynamic notations in the entire piece, which were pretty much illegible. Therefore, the dynamic indicators shown are mostly of my own choosing. None of *crescendos* or *diminuendos* I included were actually indicated by Eslava.

<p>1 Dixit Dominus Domino meo: Sede a dextris meis, donec ponam inimicos tuos scabellum pedum tuorum.</p>	<p>1 The LORD says to my lord, "Sit at my right hand until I make your enemies your footstool."</p>
<p>2 Virgam virtutis tuæ emittet Dominus ex Sion: dominare in medio inimicorum tuorum.</p>	<p>2 The LORD sends out from Zion your mighty scepter. Rule in the midst of your foes.</p>
<p>3 Tecum principium in die virtutis tuæ in splendoribus sanctorum: ex utero, ante luciferum, genui te.</p>	<p>3 Your people will offer themselves willingly on the day you lead your forces on the holy mountains. From the womb of the morning, like dew, your youth will come to you.</p>
<p>4 Juravit Dominus, et non pœnitebit eum: Tu es sacerdos in æternum secundum ordinem Melchisedech.</p>	<p>4 The LORD has sworn and will not change his mind, "You are a priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek."</p>
<p>5 Dominus a dextris tuis; confregit in die iræ suæ reges.</p>	<p>5 The Lord is at your right hand; he will shatter kings on the day of his wrath.</p>

<p>6 Judicabit in nationibus, implebit ruinas; conquassabit capita in terra multorum.</p>	<p>6 He will execute judgment among the nations, filling them with corpses; he will shatter heads over the wide earth.</p>
<p>7 De torrente in via bibet; propterea exaltabit caput.</p>	<p>7 He will drink from the stream by the path; therefore he will lift up his head.</p>