

Editor's Notes for *Beatus Vir*, Psalm for seven voices with violins, oboes, horns, bass, and obbligato organ

This is an early work by Hilarión Eslava. Although dated 1833, when Eslava was only 25, soon after being appointed Master of the Chapel of the Cathedral of Sevilla, this composition is musically similar to a version we know of extant in the archives of the Cathedral of El Burgo de Osma, where Eslava held his first post at an even younger age. Unfortunately, to date El Burgo de Osma has not granted us full access to their archives, so we have been unable to perform a more in-depth comparison. The version transcribed here came from ERESBIL – Basque Music Archive.

Psalm 112 (Psalm 111 in the Vulgate Bible) was written in praise of virtuous human behavior. In the original Hebrew, it consists of acrostic poetry, meaning that each 7-9 syllable phrase begins with a Hebrew letter of written in alphabetical order. The Psalm forms a regular part of Jewish, Catholic, Lutheran, Anglican and other Protestant liturgies. Musical settings abound, as *Beatus vir* was a common part of the liturgy of Vespers. There are versions by Mozart, Monteverdi, Vivaldi, Charpentier, and many others. Eslava himself wrote at least four versions that we know of, which can be found on our website or my Muscores pages.

This setting is simply orchestrated, using oboes, horns, violins, and bass strings supported by an organ obbligato. The melody is lilting and elegant, interspersed with short fugue-like passages. The first choir would be performed most effectively using solo voices to highlight the frequent grace notes that add delicacy and musical texture. As is often the case with Eslava's music, the dynamic and tempo indicators were sparse and sometimes conflicted between parts. I did my best to reconcile such conflicts and added a few indicators to achieve better consistency between parts. I also have added many tempo/dynamic instructions to improve the playback based on my own musical preferences, but these have usually been rendered invisible to avoid confusing my interpretation with Eslava's instructions.

LATIN TEXT	ENGLISH TRANSLATION
Beatus vir, qui timet Dominum: In mandatis ejus rolet nimis. Potens in terra erit semen ejus; Generatio rectorum benedicetur. Gloria et divitiæ in domo ejus; Et justitia ejus manet in sæculum sæculi. Exortum est in tenebris lumen rectis: Misericors, et miserator et justus. Jucundus homo qui miseretur et commodat. Disponet sermones suos in judicio: Quia in æternum non commovebitur. In memoria æterna erit justus. Ab auditione mala non timebit. Paratum cor ejus sperare in Domino; Confirmatum est, cor ejus: Non commovebitur, Donec despiciat inimicos suos.	Blessed are those who fear the Lord, Who find great delight in his commands. Their children will be mighty in the land; The generation of the upright will be blessed. Wealth and riches are in their houses, And their righteousness endures forever. Even in darkness light dawns for the upright, For those who are gracious and compassionate and righteous. Good will come to those who are generous and lend freely, Who conduct their affairs with justice. Surely the righteous will never be shaken; They will be remembered forever. They will have no fear of bad news; Their hearts are steadfast, trusting in the Lord. Their hearts are secure, they will have no fear; In the end they will look in triumph on their foes.

<p>Dispersit, dedit pauperibus: Justitia ejus manet in sæculum sæculi, Cornu ejus exaltabitur in gloria. Peccator videbit, et irascetur; Dentibus suis fremet et tabescet. Desiderium peccatorum peribit.</p> <p>Gloria Patri, et Filio, et Spiritui Sancto, Sicut erat in principio, et nunc, et semper, et in sæcula sæculorum. Amen.</p>	<p>They have freely scattered their gifts to the poor, Their righteousness endures forever; Their horn will be lifted high in honor. The wicked will see and be vexed, They will gnash their teeth and waste away; The longings of the wicked will come to nothing.</p> <p>Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, As it was in the beginning, and now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.</p>
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