

Editor's Notes for *Salve Regina*, Obra 142

Here is another beautiful arrangement of *Salve Regina*, also known as "Hail Holy Queen", a Marian hymn and one of four Marian antiphons sung at different seasons within the Christian liturgical calendar of the Catholic Church. The *Salve* is traditionally sung at Compline (evening prayers) from the Saturday before Trinity Sunday (which usually occurs in June) until the Friday before the first Sunday of Advent. It is also the final prayer of the Rosary.

This prayer was written during the Middle Ages and originally appeared in Latin. Though traditionally ascribed to the eleventh-century German monk Hermann of Reichenau, it is regarded as anonymous by most musicologists. It has been put to music by many famous composers.

Eslava composed many different *Salves*. For other versions I have transcribed, you may visit our Eslava website at <https://hilarioneslava.org/music/>.

This is probably the best known of all of Eslava's *Salves*, and there are a few YouTube recordings we have found, for instance:

<https://youtu.be/hKYXBsGVqdU?si=UCHJaeaEuempdc-t> (organ accompaniment)

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=m_fNduPETog

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NREGdf6gjBw> (organ accompaniment)

Perhaps the best recorded performance of this *Salve* (accompanied by organ) is by the Coral de Cámara de Pamplona, which is the first of the above YouTube links.

The original printed score comes to us from the archives of the Biblioteca Nacional de España. It was printed at the Calcografía de Bonifacio Eslava (Eslava's nephew) in 1861 and was assigned at that time the Opus number 142 (only a few of Eslava's works are similarly catalogued).

The original score included an organ reduction, but I noticed it left out several orchestral elements that I felt really complemented the accompaniment. Therefore, in this edition, I have written a new keyboard reduction that captures more of these orchestral elements, and would be especially effective played on a grand piano. It's probably not the best accompaniment for an organ, but one can always refer to the original source for that.

Below are the Latin lyrics and an English translation:

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| Salve, Regina, Mater misericordiæ, vita, dulcedo, et spes nostra, salve. Ad te clamamus exsules filii Hevæ, Ad te suspiramus, gementes et flentes in hac lacrimarum valle. Eia, ergo, advocata nostra, illos tuos misericordes oculos ad nos converte; Et Jesum, benedictum fructum ventris tui, nobis post hoc exilium ostende. O clemens, O pia, O dulcis Virgo Maria. | Hail, holy Queen, Mother of Mercy, Hail our life, our sweetness and our hope. To thee do we cry, poor banished children of Eve; To thee do we send up our sighs, Mourning and weeping in this valley of tears. Turn then, most gracious advocate, Thine eyes of mercy toward us; Show unto us the blessed fruit of thy womb, Jesus. And after this our exile, O clement, O loving, O sweet Virgin Mary. |
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