

CALDARA: Kyrie a8 in A minor

This edition is based on an autograph score in the Oesterreichische Nationalbibliothek (A-Wn SA.67.B.100/1), where it forms part of the Kiesewetter Collection. It is headed: “Chirie à 8, con Strom:“i à 9 Xbe 1705” (Kyrie for eight voices with instruments, [begun] on 9th December 1705); at the end of the score, the composer wrote “Finis a 14 Xbre 1705 M:“ (completed [in Mantua, where he had been maestro di cappella to Duke Charles IV since 1699] on 14 December 1705). It is written on paper rastered with 16 staves; the top and bottom staves are left empty in the outer movements, while the central Christe section (which has no separate line for the bass of the string group, and which reduces the number of vocal parts to four) leaves two staves blank at the top of each page and four at the foot.

The edition uses the modern Greek spelling “Kyrie”; performers must decide whether or not Caldara’s orthography affects what they sing. There is an unintelligible word to the left of the vocal staves for that movement which may have indicated that it is to be sung by soloists; he wrote “Segue Tutti” at the end of the movement, so that is a plausible suggestion. As there are no indications of the instrumentation the part-names follow the clefs: G₂G₂C₃C₄F₄ C₁C₃C₄F₄ C₁C₃C₄F₄ and F₄. Although the bass instrument in the string group is labelled “Violoncello” in the edition, a bassoon might equally well play that part.

There follows a short list of changes that were made for this edition (bar number, part, position of affected symbol in bar, original reading):

[1] Kyrie eleison

34 A1 4 this rest may be intended to let the singer breathe

[2] Christe eleison

58 Va2 1 c’

[3] Kyrie eleison

5 T2 5 e’

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A. Caldara: Kyrie a8

[1] Kyrie eleison

The musical score is arranged in two systems. The first system includes Violin 1, Violin 2, Viola 1, Viola 2, Violoncello, Soprano, Alto, Tenor, and Bass. The second system includes Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass, and Continuo. The Continuo part at the bottom features figured bass notation.

Figured Bass notation for the Continuo part:

6 7 ♭ 6 5 10 4 6 7 6 6 6 5 4 6 7 6 7 #6 7 6

Figured Bass notation for the Continuo part (continued):

5 9 2 4 4 ♭3 ♭2 6 7 6

17

Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son. Ky - ri - e e - - - le -

Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son. Ky - ri - e e - le - - -

Ky - ri - e e - - - le - i - son, e - le -

Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son, e - le - - -

Ky - ri - e e -

Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son, e - -

Ky - ri - e e - - -

Ky - ri - e e - - - le -

6 7 b 6 5 4 6 7 6 6 4 5b 4 6 7 6 9 8 #6 7 # 6 4