

Isabella Leonarda: *Venite lætantes*

This motet “Per la Beata Vergine, e per ogni Tempo” (“for the Blessed Virgin, and for any time”) comes from the composer’s third book of solo motets, published in Bologna in 1687: MOTETTI / A VOCE SOLA / D’ISABELLA LEONARDA / Superiora nel Nobilissimo Collegio di S. Orsola in Nouara / OPERA DECIMA QVARTA / CONSACRATA / Al merito impareggiabile di Monsignor Illustrissimo, e Reverendissimo / STEFFANO MARCIA CACCIA / Canonico della Cattedrale, e Vicario Generale Capitolare / della souradettà Città, e sua Diocesi. / IN BOLOGNA, per Giacomo Monti. MDCLXXXVII. Con licenza de’ Superioriori [sic] / Si vendono da Marino Siluani all’Insegna del Violino. Con PRIVILEGIO.

Spelling and capitalization of the Latin text have been normalized, and punctuation has been added. Abbreviated repetitions (ii) are tacitly written out, as are other textual abbreviations. Dashed barlines supplement the rare and irregular barlines of part-books (where they generally mark the end of a section, and often appear in the continuo part only), but also the inconsistent barring of scores. All the original time signatures are retained, as well as the note values. Values that overlap the barlines (and dotted notes that cross the mid-point of a measure) are converted to tied notes. All accidentals of the source are reproduced (changed to naturals when needed), except on identical pitches immediately repeated. Accidentals either in brackets or above the staff are editorial. The continuo figures are those of the source; only their placement has been tacitly standardized. Slurs indicating melismas that are beamed in our edition are not reproduced.

EDITORIAL COMMENTS

The bass line contains awkward leaps in several places (bars 65, 83, etc.) which have not been “corrected”.

Bar 25 Bc 3rd note: B flat, dotted semi-breve (whole note)

Venite lætantes, ardore flagrantēs, venite
gaudentes, accurrite gentes, volate ad me.

Ego sum vita cordium, sum dulcis Maria, sum
vobis vera pax. Sine me non est quies, nulla
est, nulla est beata sors. Qui me invenerit,
inveniet vitam, et hauriet salutem a Domino.
Per me regnant in mundo amores, per me
animæ libant dulcores; semper cara, semper
grata, sunt contenta quæ rorant a me.

Per me gratiæ pluunt in mundo et deliciæ
sunt fæcundæ; semper cara, semper grata,
sunt contenta quæ rorant a me. Qui sperat in
me non peribit, sed adibit ad æterna gaudia,
qui vivit in me non plorabit, sed regnabit in
cælesti gloria.

Come rejoicing, glowing with ardent desire, come
rejoicing, people run up, fly to me.

I am the life of hearts, I am sweet Mary, I am true peace
to you. Without me there is no rest, there is none, there
is no blessed fate. He who will have found me will find
life, and will drink safety from the Lord. Through me
love rules in the world, through me souls offer
sweetness as a libation; always dear, always pleasing,
they are the satisfied things which drop down from me.

Through me graces rain down in the world and the
delights are plentiful, always dear, always pleasing, they
are the satisfied things which drop down from me. The
one who hopes in me will not die, but will go to eternal
joy, the one who lives in me will not weep, but will rule
in heavenly glory.

Trans. Pastór de Lasala

VENITE LÆTENTES

Isabella Leonarda

Canto o tenore

[Basso continuo]

Ve - ni - te, ve - ni - te læ - tan - tes, ar - do - re_ fla - gran - tes, ve -

6 6 5

4

ni - te gau - den - tes, ac - cur - ri - te_ gen - tes, ac - cur - ri - te gen - tes, vo - la - te ad me,

6 6 7 6

8

vo - la - te ad me. Ve -

6 b 7 6 6

12

ni - te_ læ - tan - tes, ar - do - re fla - gran - tes, ve - ni - te gau - den - tes, ac -

6 [b]7 6 6 6 6

15

cur - ri - te gen - tes, vo - la - te ad me, ac - cur - ri - te gen - tes, vo - la - te ad

b 4 #3 6 7 6 4 3

19

me, _____ ar - do - re_ fla - gran - tes, ve - ni - te_ gau - den - tes, ac -

6 6 6 6