

ANCIENT GROOVE MUSIC

JOHN AMNER

(1579-1641)

Mr. Cesar's Service for verses

Edited by

BEN BYRAM-WIGFIELD

**MAGNIFICAT
NUNC DIMITTIS**



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EDITORIAL NOTES

Sources:

Peterhouse, Cambridge

GB-Cp MS 33: Bass Cantoris
GB-Cp MS 34: Medius Cantoris
GB-Cp MS 38: Bass Decani
GB-Cp MS 39: Contratenor 1 Decani
GB-Cp MS 47: Medius Decani
GB-Cp MS 49: Contratenor 1 Cantoris

British Library

GB-Lbl MS Harley 7339: Score

Durham Cathedral

GB-DRc MS A 1: Organ

Ely Cathedral (Now at Cambridge University)

GB-Cu MS Ely 28: Tenor
GB-Cu MS Ely 29: Bass
GB-Cu MS Ely 4: Organ

York Minster

GB-Ym MS M. 1/1 (S): Medius Cantoris
GB-Ym MS M. 1/2 (S): Contratenor Cantoris
GB-Ym MS M. 1/3 (S): Tenor Cantoris
GB-Ym MS M. 1/4 (S): Bass Cantoris
GB-Ym MS M. 1/5 (S): Medius Decani
GB-Ym MS M. 1/6 (S): Contratenor Decani
GB-Ym MS M. 1/7 (S): Tenor Decani
GB-Ym MS M. 1/8 (S): Bass Decani

The complete 'service' comprises *Venite, Te Deum, Jubilate, Magnificat, Nunc dimittis, Kyrie to the Commandments* and *Credo*. Editions of these are available in separate publications for Morning Prayer, Evening Prayer, and the Communion Service.

This edition is based on the Peterhouse sources and the Ely vocal partbooks. The British Library score by Thomas Tudway (c. 1650 - 1726) has been consulted, but given little weight. The *Venite* is found only in the Peterhouse sources, where the Tenor part has not survived. It has therefore been editorially reconstructed. The organ part is a reduction of the vocal lines.

The source material is titled either as 'for verses' or 'Mr. Cesar's Service'. Henry Caesar was Dean of Ely Cathedral from 1614 until his death in 1636. Amner was closely associated with Ely, having been a chorister, organist, *Informator choristarum* (from 1610), and a minor Canon.

The verse indications (usually incomplete) throughout the music show a clear and consistent use of a reduced texture without basses for the verse sections, contrasting with full Chorus sections. These often alternate in rapid succession. Editorial indications for Verse and Chorus are shown in square brackets where they are absent from all sources but assumed.

The Contratenor parts show a frequent common practice of the period: at the end of a phrase sung by both sides (*Decani* and *Cantoris*), where one side (e.g. *Decani*) continues on its own, the other side (e.g. *Cantoris*) will hold on to its final note, overlapping the first note of the new phrase. (Thus, a minim for *Decani* is a semibreve for *Cantoris*.) As the Contratenor part is largely shown on one staff, such points have been indicated with an asterisk*.

The underlay in the sources is somewhat open to conjecture: often only the initial word of each (familiar) phrase is written, leaving the singer to fill in as best they can. Melismas are not always indicated with slurs. Editorial slurs are shown as dashed slurs; all other slurs are found in one or more sources. Italics indicate underlay where the editorial assignment is just one of a number of possible interpretations, or where the source is unsatisfactory (e.g. too many syllables for the notes).

Magnificat:

22: *Medius Decani* has the same phrase as *Cantoris* until b. 25.

Nunc dimittis

17: The Tenor verse is found in the *Contratenor Cantoris* partbook, and has been moved for reasons of pitch. The music in Tudway's score is incompatible with the Peterhouse sources for this verse section.

Ben Byram-Wigfield
London, 2022

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Cesar's Service 'for verses'

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JOHN AMNER
(1579-1641)

Magnificat

unis.

Medius Decani
My soul doth mag - ni - fy the Lord, and my spi - rit re - joic - - eth in God.

Medius Cantoris
My soul doth mag - ni - fy the Lord, and my spi - rit re - joic - - eth in God.

Contratenor
My soul doth mag - ni - fy the Lord, and my spi - rit re - joic - - eth in

Tenor
My soul doth mag - ni - fy the Lord, and my spi - rit re - joic - - eth in God

Bass
My soul doth mag - ni - fy the Lord, and my spi - rit re - joic - - eth in

Organ

7

— my Sa - - vi - our. For — he hath re - gard - ed the low - li - ness of his hand -

— my Sa - - vi - our. For — he hath re - gard - ed the low - li - ness of his hand -

God my Sa - vi - our. For — he hath re - gard - ed the low - li - ness of his hand -

— my Sa - vi - our. For — he hath re - gard - ed the low - li - ness of his hand -

God my Sa - vi - our. For — he hath re - gard - ed the low - li - ness of his hand -

13

-maid. For be - hold, for be - hold from hence - - forth, all ge -

-maid. For be - hold, for be - hold from hence - - forth, all ge -

-maid. For be - hold, for be - - hold from hence - forth all ge - ne - ra - - ti - ons,

-maid. For be - hold, from hence - forth, from hence - forth all ge - - ne - ra - ti -

-maid. For be - hold, from hence - forth all ge - - - ne - ra - ti - ons shall

18

- ne - ra - ti - ons shall call me bless - ed shall call me bless - - - - ed. *div.*

- ne - ra - ti - ons shall call me bless - ed shall call me bless - - - - ed. For he *div. Verse*

all ge - - ne - ra - ti - ons shall call me bless - - - - ed. For he *Verse Cantoris*

- ons, shall call me bless - ed, bless - - - - ed. For he *Verse*

call me bless - - - - ed, shall call me bless - - - - ed.

23

Verse

and ho - ly is his name,

that is migh - - ty hath mag - - ni-fied me, and ho - ly is his

that is migh - - ty hath mag - ni - fied me, and ho - - ly is his name, and ho -

that is migh - - ty hath mag-ni-fied me, and ho - - ly is his name, and

28

unis.

[Chorus]

div.

and ho - - ly is his name. And his mer - cy is - on them that fear him, through

name, ho - - ly is his name. And his mer - cy is - on them that fear him,

- - ly is his name, is his name. And his mer - cy is on them that fear him, through

ho - - ly is his name, his name. And his mer - cy is on them that fear him

And his mer - cy is on them that fear him,

33

-out all ge - ne - ra - - - ti - - ons, all ge - ne - ra - - - -

div.
through-out all ge - ne - ra - - ti - ons, all ge - ne - ra - ti - ons, through-out all ge - ne -

-out all ge - ne - ra - ti - ons, all ge - - - ne - ra - - - - ti - ons, all ge - - - -

through - out all ge - ne - ra - ti - ons, through - out all ge - ne - -

through - - out all ge - ne - ra - ti - ons, through - out all ge - ne - -

37

- - ti - - - - - ons. He _____ hath shew-ed strength

- ra - - - - ti - - ons. He _____ hath shew - - ed strength with his

- - - ne - ra - - ti - ons. He hath shew - ed strength with his arm,

- ra - - ti - - - - - ons. He hath shew - ed strength with his

- ra - - - - ti - - ons. He _____ hath shew - ed

42

with his arm, with his arm, he hath scat-ter-ed the proud
 arm, with his arm, he hath scat-ter-ed the proud, he hath scat-ter-ed the
 he hath shew-ed strength with his arm, he hath
 arm, with his arm, with his arm, his arm, he hath scat-ter-ed the proud,
 strength with his arm, with his arm, he hath scat-ter-ed the

46

in the i-ma-gi-na-ti-on of their hearts, of their hearts, in the i-ma-gi-
 proud, in the i-ma-gi-na-ti-on of their hearts, in the i-ma-gi-
 scat-ter-ed the proud, the proud in the i-ma-gi-na-ti-on of their hearts, in
 he hath scat-ter-ed the proud, the proud in the i-ma-gi-na-ti-ons
 proud in the i-ma-gi-na-ti-on of their

50

div.

-na-ti-on of their hearts, of their hearts. He hath put down the migh - - ty from their

div.

-na-ti-on of their hearts, of their hearts. He hath put down the migh - ty from their seat, he

the i-ma-gi-na-ti-on of their hearts. He hath put down the migh - - - ty from their seat, from.

of their hearts, of their hearts. He hath put down the

hearts, of their hearts. He hath put down the migh - ty

55

unis.

seat, he hath put down the migh - ty from their seat, and hath ex - alt - - ed the hum -

unis.

hath put down the migh - ty from their seat, from their seat, and hath ex - alt - - ed the hum -

- their seat, and hath ex - alt - ed

migh - - ty from their seat, their seat, and hath ex - al - - ted the hum - ble

from their seat, and hath ex - alt - ed the hum - ble and meek, and

60

div. *unis.*

- ble and meek, and hath ex - alt - ed the hum - ble and meek, the hum - ble and

div. *unis.*

- ble and meek, and hath ex - alt - - - ed the hum - ble and meek, the hum - ble and

the hum - ble and meek, ex - alt - - - ed, and hath ex - alt - ed the hum - ble and

and meek, and hath ex - alt - - - ed the hum - ble and meek, the hum - ble and

hath ex - - alt - ed the hum - ble and meek, the hum - ble and meek, the hum - ble and

65

div.

meek. He ___ hath fill - - ed the hun - - gry with good things, and ___ the rich he

div.

meek. He ___ hath fill - - ed the hun - - gry with good things, and ___ the rich he

meek. He ___ hath fill - - ed the hun - gry with ___ good things,

meek. He ___ hath fill - ed the hun - gry with ___ good things, and ___ the rich he

meek. He ___ hath fill - - ed the hun - - gry with good things,

70

unis.
hath sent emp - ty a - - - way, _____ sent emp - ty a - - way.

unis.
hath sent emp - - ty a - - - way, _____ sent emp - ty a - - way.

and the rich he hath sent emp - - ty _____ a - - way.

hath sent emp - ty a - way, and the rich he hath sent emp - - - ty a - - - - way.

and the rich he hath sent emp - ty a - - - - - - - - - way. _____

75

[Verse] *unis.* [Chorus]
He re - mem-b'ring his mer - - cy _____ hath hol - pen his ser - vant Is - - ra - el. As _____

As _____

Verse Decani
He re - mem-b'ring his mer - cy hath hol - pen _____ his _____ ser - vant Is - ra - el.

[Verse] [Chorus]
He re - mem-b'ring his mer - - cy _____ hath hol - pen his ser - vant Is - ra - el. As _____

As _____

81

div.
 — he pro - mis - ed to our fore - fa - ther A - - - bra - ham and
 — he pro - mis - ed to our fore - fa - ther A - - - bra - ham and to his
Chorus **Cantoris**
 As he pro - mis - ed, he pro - mis - ed to our fore - fath - er A - bra - ham, and
 — he pro - mis - ed to our fore - fath - er A - - - bra - ham
 — he pro - mis - ed to our fore - fath - - er A - bra - - - - ham,

86

unis.
 to his seed for ev - er, and to his seed for ev - er.
unis.
 seed for ev - - - - ver, and to his seed for ev - er.
Full
 to his seed for ev - - - er, and to his seed for ev - - - - er.
 and to his seed for ev - - - - - er.
 and to his seed for ev - - - - - er.

91

Glo - ry be to the Fa - - ther, and to the Son, and to the Ho - - ly

Glo - ry be to the Fa - - ther, and to the Son, and to the Ho - - ly

Glo - ry be to the Fa - - ther, and to the Son, and to the Ho - - ly

Glo - ry be to the Fa - - ther, and to the Son, and to the Ho - - ly

Glo - ry be to the Fa - - ther, and to the Son, and to the Ho - - ly

96

Ghost. As it was in the be - gin - ning is now, [Verse]

Ghost. As it was in the be - gin - ning is now, and ev - er shall be, * Verse Cantoris [Chorus]

Ghost. As it was in the be - gin - ning is now, and ev - er shall be, and [Chorus]

Ghost. As it was in the be - gin - ning is now, and

Ghost. As it was in the be - gin - ning is now, and

101

div.

and ev - er shall be, world with - - out end, world with -

[Chorus]

and ev - er shall be, world with - out end, —

ev - er shall be, shall be, and ev - er shall be world

ev - er shall be, world with - out end, A - - - - - men,

ev - er shall be world with - out end, world with - - out end, world

104

- - - out end. A - - men, A - - - - - men.

— with-out end. A - - - - - men.

with - out end. A - - - - - men, A - - - - - men.

A - - - - - men, A - - - - - men.

with - out end. A - - - - - men.

Nunc Dimittis

unis.

Medius Decani

Lord, — now let - test thou thy ser - vant de - part in — peace, ac - cord - ing

Medius Cantoris

unis.

Lord, — now let - test thou thy ser - vant de - part in — peace, ac - cord - ing

Contratenor

Lord, now let - test thou thy ser - - vant de - part in peace, ac - cord - ing

Tenor

Lord, now let - test thou thy ser - - vant de - part in peace, ac - cord - ing

Bass

Lord, now let - test thou thy ser - - vant de - part in peace, ac - cord - ing

Organ

6

to thy word. For mine eyes have seen thy sal - va - ti - on which — thou has pre -

to thy word. For mine eyes have seen thy sal - va - ti - on which — thou has pre -

to thy word. For mine eyes have seen thy — sal - - va - - ti - on which thou has pre -

to thy word. For mine eyes have seen thy — sal - va - ti - on, which thou hast — pre - -

to thy word. For mine eyes have seen thy sal - va - ti - on which thou has pre -

12

div.

unis.

-par - - ed be - fore the face of all peo - ple, be - fore the face of all peo - - - -

unis.

-par - - ed be - fore the face of all peo - - - -

*

-par - - ed be - fore the face of all peo - ple, be - fore the face of

-par - - ed be - fore the face of all peo - - - - ple, of all peo -

- par - - ed be - fore the face of all peo - ple, of all

17

div. Verse

- - - ple. To be a light to ligh - ten the Gen - tiles, and to be the

div. Verse

- - - ple. To be a light to ligh - ten the Gen - tiles, and to be the glo - - -

all peo - ple.

Verse Cantoris

- - - ple. To be a light to ligh - ten the Gen - tiles, the Gen - - - tiles,

peo - - ple.

22

glo - - ry, and to be the glo - - - ry of thy peo - ple Is - - - ra - el, and - - - ry, and to be the glo - - ry of thy peo - - ple, and to be the glo - ry and to be the glo - - ry of thy peo - - ple Is - - ra - el, thy peo - ple

26

to be the glo - ry of thy peo - ple Is - - - ra - el. *unis.* [Chorus] Glo - ry be to the Fa - ther, and to the of thy peo - ple, of thy peo - ple Is - ra - el. *unis.* [Chorus] Glo - ry be to the Fa - ther, and to the Is - ra - el, Is - - - - ra - el. [Chorus] Glo - ry be to the Fa - ther, and to the [Chorus] Glo - ry be to the Fa - ther, and to the

42

and ev - er shall be world with - out end, world with - out end, world with - out
 with - - - out end, and ev - - er shall be, world with - out
 ev - er shall be, world with - - - out end, world with - out
 be, world with - out end, world with -
 world with - out end, world with - out end, world with - out

46

end. A - - - - - men, A - - - - - men.
 end. A - - - - - men.
 end. A - - - - - men.
 -out end. A - - - men, A - - - - - men, A - men.
 end. A - - - - - men.