



(Lems 6009)

Capella Cordina
Missa “jomme arme”
By Christobal Morales
Alejandro Planchrt, Director

Descant: Millicent Allison, Julia Blue, Jeanine Dovell, Amy Klohr, Sally Sanford, Karen Shoos.

Alto 1: Roberta Graziano, Christine Hunter, Naomi Lewin, Kerala Snyder, Britt Wheeler.

Alto 2: Susan Addiss, Franck Avril, Karen Kleeman, Sarah Mead, Maria Veder.

Tenor: George Huber, Steven Sametz, Benjamin Ward, Jack Amboni.

Bass: David Carr, John Graziano, Thomas MacCracken, Christopher Wall, David Weisbrod.

The Gregorian chants were performed by the singers whose names are italicized plus David Dunkle.

Recorded on May 19th, 1973 (Morales), and June 19th 1974 (Chants), by Frederick Bashour.

Cristobal Morales (1500-1553) is often compared to Giovanni Pierluigi de Palestrina, and although the comparison is always intended to flatter the great Spanish master, it has done his music a disservice, for it has often distorted our perception of it. Despite his long service in Rome, Morales is far closer to the northern spirit of the Netherlanders of the generation of Nicholas Gombert, and if very often his music strikes us as “pre-Palestrina,” it is because of Palestrina’s admiration for that same generation of Netherlands composers which, in a sense, includes Morales as well, and which gratly affected Palestrina’s own style.

In any case, to look in Morales for the almost placid sound of the later Romans, either as a listener or as a performer, is to miss the most essential aspect of his style: the enormous

rhythmic density, and the drive of the music, which hark back, beyond Gombert, to the style of Josquin Despres. To be sure, Morales' concern for harmonic euphony, a tendency already to be found in the music of Gombert, simply does not allow him to write some of the very harsh dissonances that can be found in Josquin and in Obrecht, and which are part and parcel of the rhythmic language that they were creating. As a consequence, Morales' style presents a less dramatic surface than that of Josquin. It remains, nevertheless, enormously exciting.

Morales wrote virtually no secular music, but within his large corpus of sacred works we find practically every single style being cultivated in his day. The Mass in this record was published in his First Book of Masses (1544), which contains also another Mass on the same cantus firmus for four voices instead of five.

In the present work the famous tune appears transposed to F, and it is seldom used in the manner of a cantus firmus (e.g., in the last Kyrie), instead, Morales derived virtually all of his themes from it, so that the work appears like a great cycle of paraphrase variations on L'homme arme.

In surrounding the Mass with chanted Propers, we have sought to preserve as much as possible its liturgical context. The cantus firmus itself suggested the choice of Propers for Saint James the Great. The apostle, whose relics were venerated in Santiago de Compostela, had since the middle ages become the patron saint of the long Spanish crusade against the Moors, so that the great military order of Spain and Portugal was the Orden de Santiago. James "the armed man" had displaced James the pilgrim in the popular imagination of the time.

Following local Spanish usage in the early 16th century, we have sung the Gradual *Nimis honorati* instead of the Gradual found for the saint's feast in the modern chant books.

TRACKS:

1. Introit, *Mihi autem nimis* - 2:07

Ant. To me they friends, O Lord, are made exceedingly honourable. Their Principality Is exceedingly strengthened.

Ps. Lord, thou has proved me, and known me, thou hast known my sitting down and my rising up.

Glory be to they Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost, as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

Ant. To me they friends, O Lord, are made exceedingly hoourable. Their principality is exceedingly strengthened.

2. Kyrie "L'homme arme" - 3:41

Krie "L'homme arme"
Lord have mercy on us.
Christ have mercy on us.
Lord have mercy on us.

3. Gloria "L'homme arme" - 5:36

Gloria "L'homme arme"
Glory be to God on high.

And on earth peace to men of good will. We praise thee, we bless thee, we adore thee, we glorify thee. We give thee thanks for thy great glory. O Lord God, King of Heaven, God the Father Almighty. O Lord, the only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ.

O God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father.

Thou who takest away the sins of the world, have mercy on us. Thou who takest away the sins of the world, receive our prayer. Thou who sittest at the right hand of the Father, have mercy on us. For thou only art holy, thou only art the Lord. Thou only art most high, O Jesus Christ, with the Holy Ghost in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

4. Gradual, Nimis honorati sunt - 3:30

Resp. Thy friends, O God are exceedingly honourable. Their principality is exceedingly strengthened.

Vs. I shall number them, and they shall be multiplied above the sand.

Resp. Thy friends, O God are exceedingly honourable. Their principality is exceedingly strengthened.

5. Alleluia, Ego vos elegi - 3:18

Resp. Alleluia, alleluia.

VS. I have chosen you out of the world, that you should go, and should bring forth fruit, and your fruit should remain.

Resp. Alleluia.

6. Credo "L'homme arme" - 8:47

I believe in one God.

The Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God. And born of the Father before all ages. God of God, light of light, true God of God. Begotten, not made, consubstantial with the Father by whom all things were made. Who for us men, and for our salvation, descended from Heaven.

And was incarnate by the Holy Ghost of the Virgin Mary, and was made man. Was also crucified under Pontius Pilate, died and buried.

And rose again on the third day, according to the scriptures. And ascended into heaven, sitteth at the right hand of the Father. And again shall come with glory to judge the living and the dead, of whose kingdom there shall be no end.

And the Holy Ghost, the Lord and lifegiver, who proceedeth from the Father and the Son. Who together with the Father and the Son is adored and conglorified, who spake by the prophets. And one holy, Catholic, and Apostolic Church. I confess one baptism for the remission of sins. And I expect the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

7. Offertory, In omnem terram - 1:01

Their sound hath gone forth into all the earth, and their words unto the ends of the world

8. Sanctus "L'homme arme" - 5:08

Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God of Hosts. The heavens and the earth are filled with thy glory.

Hosanna in the highest!

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest!

9. Agnus "L'homme arme" - 4:20

Lamb of God, who takest away the sins of the world, have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, who takest away the sins of the world, have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, who takest away the sins of the world, have mercy on us.

10. Communion, Vos qui secuti - 0:51

You that have followed me shall sit upon seats, judging the twelve tribes of Israel.

CREDITS:

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