Mass in Three Voices

William Byrd

Arranged and edited by Christopher Moore
Mass in Three Voices
William Byrd
1543-1623

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Version 1.0- July 2000

The English composer William Byrd was one of the undoubted masters of polyphonic vocal music. His Mass in Three Voices was originally written for Alto, Tenor and Bass, and is one of the few examples of this combination in the literature.

This mass is presented here arranged for Soprano, Alto and Bass. The soprano part is identical to the original tenor part and can of course be sung by tenors rather than sopranos as per the original. The major impetus to rearrange the mass was the fact that many smaller choirs do not often have tenors, but sopranos are invariably present.

There are five parts to the Mass.

• Kyrie: This has rearranged to better suit modern usage. The original three-fold Kyrie as written has been expanded into a six-fold Kyrie. Please note that this is the editor’s rearrangement, and need not necessarily be followed.
• Gloria
• Credo
• Sanctus and Benedictus : Although two separate pieces in the original, the Sanctus and Benedictus have been combined into one here according to modern usage.
• Agnus Dei

A keyboard obbligato has been provided, but it should be noted that the mass was originally intended to be sung a cappella. Solo/Tutti markings and dynamics are also editorial, and are suggestive only.

The editor would appreciate feedback on this arrangement, and any suggestions for improvement. E-mail may be sent to cid_moore@optusnet.com.au.

This edition may be freely copied for non-commercial performance. It may not, however, be changed in any way without the editor’s approval.

Dr Christopher Moore
Sydney, Australia

Version History
July 2000 1.0 First version
Mass in Three Voices - Kyrie

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1st time Alto Solo

Soprano

Ky-ri-e e-lei-son

Ist time Alto Solo

Alto

Ky-ri-e e-lei-son, Chri-ste e-lei-son

Bass

Ky-ri-e e-lei-son

Keyboard

Ky-ri-e e-lei-son

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Mass in Three Voices - Gloria

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Mass in Three Voices - Credo

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Qui prop-ter nos homi-men,

et prop-ter nost-ram sa-lut-em de-

scen-dit de coe-

- 5 -
Crucifixus etiam pro nobis

sub Pontio Pilato pas sus et sepultus

et sepultus est sepultus est Et resurrectit ter-

pas sus et sepultus est Et resurrectit
tu-os cu-jus re-gni non e-rit fi-nis
mor-tu-os cu-jus re-gni non

nu-os cu-jus re-gni non e-rit fi-

non e-rit fi-nis non e-rit fi-nis fi-nis

e-rit fi-nis non e-rit fi-nis

nis non e-rit fi-nis fi-nis

Et in Spir-it-um sanc-tum Do-mi-num

Et in Spir-it-um sanc-tum Do-mi-num
et vivifican tem qui ex Patre Filio

num et vivifican tem qui ex Pat-

num et vivifican tem qui ex Pat-

o que procedit procedit

re Filio o que procedit

re Filio o que procedit

Qui cum Patre et Filio simul ad-

Qui cum Patre et Filio simul ad-

Qui cum Patre et Filio simul ad-

Qui cum Patre et Filio simul ad-

Qui cum Patre et Filio simul ad-

Qui cum Patre et Filio simul ad-

Qui cum Patre et Filio simul ad-

Qui cum Patre et Filio simul ad-

Tutti
oratur et conglorificatur simul adoratur et conglorificatur
qui locutus est per prophetas. Et unum Sanctum

Mass in Three Voices - Sanctus/Benedictus

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S

S

A

A

B

B

Kb

Kb

S

S

A

A

B

B

Kb

Kb

Solo

Solo

us Sab - a - oth Ple - ni sunt cae - li et ter - 
us Sab - a - oth Ple - ni sunt cae - li et ter - 
us Sab - a - oth Ple - ni sunt cae - li et ter - 
us Sab - a - oth Ple - ni sunt cae - li et ter -
Mass in Three Voices - Agnus Dei

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