## Francesco Durante (1684-1755)

# MAGNIFICAT <br> in B flat <br> a cinque voci con violini e basso 

Edition based on the autograph in the
Biblioteca del R. Conservatorio di Musica di Napoli

## Full score

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3rd edition, November 2019

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## Preface to the Magnificat a cinque voci

Of the vocal compositions by the Neapolitan baroque composer Francesco Durante (1684-1755), the Magnificat in B flat undoubtedly is one of his most well-known. However, the version by which the work has earned its current popularity is the 4-part version (SATB), published by Carus ${ }^{1}$. The version you find in this edition is the far less well-known 5-part version (SSATB), which is in fact quite different from its 4-part counterpart. Not only has an additional soprano part been added (causing considerable rework in the other vocal parts), but a couple of movements have been replaced by completely different ones. The short aria Et misericordia for soprano and alto has been replaced by an equally short aria for alto, which has a different, more emphatic character. The subsequent choir Fecit potentiam has been replaced as well. The duetto Suscepit Israel (tenor and bass) and subsequent choir Sicut locutus est have been replaced by a new bass aria (in which the Sicut locutus est theme from Suscepit Israel in the 4-part version returns).

Besides, the instrumental accompaniment of the parts Durante kept has been largely rewritten. Though leaving out the viola part of the 4-part version (which is not a great loss, as it mainly doubled the continuo part), the two violin parts show a richness which is greatly differing from the 4-part version. All in all, though we do not know when Durante wrote either of the versions, it seems likely that he undertook to write the 5-part version as a general improvement and enrichment of the four part version, throwing out a couple of weeker parts, while keeping the strong elements of the original such as the Magnificat theme or the beautiful polyphony of the Deposuit.

The source of the 5-part version is an undated manuscript kept in the Biblioteca del R. Conservatorio di Musica di Napoli (see Notes on the text, below), which is considered to be Durante's autograph ${ }^{2}$. It is well preserved, well readable, and seems to contain hardly any errors. It is interesting to note, however, that of the 4-part version, a multitude of sources exist - though none of them in Durante's hand:

| Nr | Location | Library | Signature / Reference | Dated |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 1 | Napoli | Biblioteca del Conservatorio di musica San Pietro a Majella | NA0059 Mus.Rel. 460-461 | 1741-1760 |
| 2 | Napoli | Biblioteca del Conservatorio di musica San Pietro a Majella | NA0059 Pacco 2147(1-9) | 1741-1760 |
| 3 | Roma | Biblioteca musicale governativa del Conservatorio di musica S. Cecilia | RM0266 G.MS0113 | 1691-1710 (sic) |
| 4 | Roma | Archivio del Vicariato | EX0005 Archivio Capitolare Basilica di S. Maria in Trastevere 655-6 | 1741-1760 |
| 5 | Bergamo | Biblioteca civica Angelo Mai e Archivi storici comunali | BG0026 B-12.4 | 1741-1760 |
| 6 | Bergamo | Biblioteca civica Angelo Mai e Archivi storici comunali | BG0026 C.4.4 | 1741-1760 |
| 7 | Parma | Biblioteca Palatina. Sezione musicale | PR0071 Borbone Borb. 766 | 1791-1810 |
| 8 | Bergamo | Biblioteca musicale Gaetano Donizetti |  | 1823 |
| 9 | Milano | Biblioteca del Conservatorio di musica Giuseppe Verdi | MI0344 Noseda Noseda L.24.46 | 1862 |

[^0]| Nr | Location | Library | Signature / Reference | Dated |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 10 | Paris | Bibliothèque Nationale | FRBNF39626076 / Roze, Catalogue ADC 5, p. 49. - Roze, Catalogue ADC 6, p. 59. - Roze, Catalogue ADC 13, p. 5 | 1742-1810 |
| 11 | Paris | Bibliothèque Nationale | FRBNF39585339 | 1760-1780 |
| 12 | Paris | Bibliothèque Nationale | FRBNF39585341 / Roze, Catalogue ADC 5, p. 49. - Roze, Catalogue ADC 6, p. 59. - Roze, Catalogue ADC 13, p. 5 | 1794-1807 |
| 13 | Paris | Bibliothèque Nationale | FRBNF39585340 | 1800-1820 |
| 14 | Paris | Bibliothèque Nationale | FRBNF39585347 | 1812 |

This abundance of sources must be indicative for the great popularity the work enjoyed during the 18th and even the first half of the 19th century. This has also been commented on by authors such as Hanns-Berthold Dietz ${ }^{1}$ and Diethard Hellmann ${ }^{2}$. In fact, Durante's church music in general has been quite popular for quite long after his death in 1755, and many of his works have survived by more than one source. But this does not quite explain why we have so many versions of the 4-part version, against only one of the 5-part version. One possible explanation might be suggested by the dating of source nr. 3, 1691-17103. We do not know who dated this manuscript and on what grounds, and 1691 seems highly improbable (Durante was then only seven years old, and his first known composition dates from $1705^{4}$ ). But if the dating is correct, it would mean that Durante wrote his 4-part version quite early in his life.

In that case the 5-part version must have been the result of rework during a much later period of his life - which is plausible for stylistic reasons as well. Then, during the larger part of his life, only the 4-part version existed as a source to be copied. We know that Durante, in his capacity as music teacher (Primo Maestro) at the Poveri di Gesù Cristo, S. Maria di Loreto and S. Onofrio conservatories at Naples, encouraged his pupils (among which many later composers such as Jommelli, Paisiello, Pergolesi and Piccinni) to copy his works as study material. This might also account for the existence of a source (nr. 6) bearing the name of Pergolesi, and the 20th century misattribution of the (4-part) Magnificat to Pergolesi. (By the way, an excellent biography and assessment of his compositions by Hanns-Berthold Diets is to be found on the internet ${ }^{5}$.

Among these sources, nr. 10 seems to be of outstanding interest. Coming from the large and important collection of Neapolitan 18th century music collected by the bibliophile and revolutionary Gaspare Selvaggi, which now is to be found partly in the Bibliothèque Nationale and partly in the British Library, it is a quite elaborate version: it has instrumental parts for 2 violins, 2 violas (actually violettas), 2 oboes and 2 trumpets, plus violoncello, contrabasso and organo ${ }^{6}$. Much of this material is, according to the bibliographical note, contemporary to the period of Durante's activities at the S. Maria di Loreto conservatory, and certainly calls for further investigation.

[^1]The 5-part score has a couple of interesting features. First, in the Deposuit, the continuo part shows occasional instances of polyphony (bars 2-3 and 9). This is more common in Durante manuscripts see e.g. the Durante manuscripts in the British Library. They may be intended just for the organ player, to facilitate his colla parte continuo playing in this polyphonic context. But it is not impossible that these notes were intended to be played by the violoncello player as well, as there are reasons to believe that chord playing on the cello in continuo parts was indeed more common than one usually assumes ${ }^{1}$.

Then, in the Suscepit Israel, in the first violin part a couple of solo indications appear (bars 1, 3, 13) suggesting a distinction between solo and tutti passages, and at the same time the second violin part shows instances of polyphony (bars 2,14). Does this mean that the second violinists indeed should play double stops? Or has Durante used the stave of the second violin for the tutti notes of both first and second violin? It is true that Durante uses double stops in violin parts more often. But these particular instances are not looking very obvious from a violinist's point of view. In this edition I have solved this by leaving the score exactly as Durante wrote it, and in the violin parts by splitting the polyphonic passages between the first and second tutti violins. It seems a viable solution, but it is by no means the only one - it is up to the musicians performing from this score to take their own decisions.

I wish to thank the early music specialists I have consulted on these features in the string parts, in particular Viola de Hoog who provided me with interesting information on polyphony in continuo parts.

November 2019
Walter Heeroma

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## Notes on the text

For this edition of Durante's Magnificat a cinque voci we have used the source in the Biblioteca del $R$. Conservatorio di Musica di Napoli, as published on the internet at
http://petrucci.mus.auth.gr/imglnks/usimg/b/bd/IMSLP339085-PMLP547074-0084998.pdf (freely
downloadable). In every respect we have strictly adhered to the source, with the following exceptions:

- In the original there are no indications for instrumentation in front of the first system, as is customary in modern editions. These have been added. Although there is no way to know whether the instrumentation as indicated on the cover of the manuscript ('con violini e basso') is by Durante, from the texture of the two upper instrumental parts it is quite clear that they have been written for the violin.
- All clefs have been changed into the keys customary in present-day notation.
- Lyrics in italics, as well as texts between [ ] have been added by the editor.

Accidentals in this edition follow the modern one bar - one accidental convention. In baroque music, the general rule was 'one note, one accidental'; but this rule was certainly not observed very consistently, and there has been a long transition period shifting towards the modern convention. This is relevant for the present edition, as it becomes quite clear that a strict adherence to the 'one note, one accidental' rule makes no sense (for a few illustrations of this in the first part of the Magnificat, cf. the accidentals in bar 19/20 (v2), bar 20/21 (S1), or bar 16 (B and b.c.)). In the Magnificat, Durante apparently uses the convention that an accidental applies to the note after it and any of the same notes following shortly afterwards. This may even apply to a note following shortly afterwards in the next bar (cf. last part, bar 53 (A)). Durante writes repeat accidentals in the same bar only for notes relatively far apart (cf. first part, bars 24 (v1/2) and 28 (v1)).

This being said, we have refrained from adding editorial notes on accidentals added in this edition that fit within the convention used by Durante. Only where adding an accidental seemed necessary to correct a writing error, this has been commented in the list below. If there should be doubt about any accidental in this edition, please do consult the original manuscript.

The abbreviation dol. which is frequently found in this work (as indeed in many of Durante's works) can mean either dolce or dolente. However, in some of the manuscripts in the British Library this indication is frequently found in regular alternation with for.[te]. It therefore should be read as dolce a more imaginative alternative for the term piano one might have expected.

## Part 1 - Magnificat

- Bar 32, v2 second semiquaver: a -> a flat.
- Bar 36, b.c. second quaver: a -> a flat.

Part 3 - Deposuit

- Bar 38, S2 last note: f -> f sharp.


## Part 5 - Gloria Patri

- Bar 8, A last note: the manuscript has a tie to the first note of bar 9, which has been omitted as the first note of bar 9 has to have its own syllable.
- Bar $23, \mathrm{~S} 1 / 2$ : though these parts are in unisono, the placing of the natural before the e differs in the manuscript. A correction has to be made, which we did in S2, second note: e -> e flat.

[^3]1. Magnificat













## 2. Et misericordia







Magnificat
3. Deposuit







Magnificat

4. Suscepit Israel













## 5. Gloria Patri
















[^0]:    ${ }^{1}$ Francesco Durante, Magnificat in B für Singstimmen SATB 2 Violinen, Viola und Basso continuo edited by Diethard Hellmann. Leinfelden-Echterdingen, 1965.
    ${ }^{2}$ Jno L. Hunt, "The Durante/'Pergolesi' Magnificat: a New Source", Music \& Letters, 64 (1983) 225-228.

[^1]:    ${ }^{1}$ Hanns-Bertold Dietz, "The Neapolitan School: Francesco Durante (1684-1755) - Aspects of Manuscript Dissemination, Misattributions, and Reception", Música em Perspectiva, 2 nr. 2 (2009), 7-30.
    ${ }^{2}$ Durante, Magnificat, Vorwort.
    ${ }^{3}$ Catalogo del Servizio Bibliotecaria Nazionale, Scheda $19 / 44$
    (http://opac.sbn.it/opacsbn/opaclib?db=solr_iccu\&nentries=1\&select_db=solr_iccu\&searchForm=opac\%2Ficcu \%2Fbase.jsp\&resultForward=opac\%2Ficcu\%2Ffull.jsp\&do_cmd=search_show_cmd\&format=xml\&rpnlabel=+ Autore+ $\% 3 \mathrm{D}+$ Durante++AND+Titolo+\%3D+Magnificat+\&rpnquery=\%2540attrset\%2Bbib$1 \% 2 \mathrm{~B} \% 2540 \mathrm{and} \% 2 \mathrm{~B} \% 2 \mathrm{~B} \% 2540 \mathrm{attr} \% 2 \mathrm{~B} 1 \% 253 \mathrm{D} 1003 \% 2 \mathrm{~B} \% 2540 \mathrm{attr} \% 2 \mathrm{~B} 4 \% 253 \mathrm{D} 2 \% 2 \mathrm{~B} \% 2522$ Durante\%252 2\%2B\%2B\%2540attr\%2B1\%253D4\%2B\%2540attr\%2B4\%253D2\%2B\%2522Magnificat\%2522\&totalResult=4 $2 \&$ ricerca=base\&saveparams=false\&\&fname=none\&from=19).
    ${ }^{4}$ Hanns-Bertold Dietz, "Durante, Francesco", Grove Music Online, 2008, as republished on http://www.bach-cantatas.com/Lib/Durante-Francesco.htm.
    ${ }^{5}$ Dietz, ibidem.
    ${ }^{6}$ Bibliothèque Nationale, Notice bibliographique (https://catalogue.bnf.fr/ark:/12148/cb39626076r).

[^2]:    ${ }^{1}$ Robert Smith, Basso Continuo Realization on the Cello and Viol. Amsterdam, 2009
    (https://baroquebass.com/portfolio/basso-continuo-realisation).

[^3]:    ${ }^{1}$ Robert Donington, The Interpretation of Early Music (London, 1974), 131-132 and 613-616.

