

A. Vivaldi, Gloria RV 589



Antonio Lucio Vivaldi (March 4, 1678 – July 28, 1741), nicknamed *il Prete Rosso* ("The Red Priest"), was an Italian Baroque composer, priest, and virtuoso violinist, born in Venice. Vivaldi is recognized as one of the greatest Baroque composers, and his influence during his lifetime was widespread over Europe. He is known mainly for composing instrumental concertos, especially for the violin, as well as sacred choral works and over 40 operas. His best known work is a series of violin concertos known as *The Four Seasons*. Many of his compositions were written for the female music ensemble of the *Ospedale della Pietà*, an orphanage for poor and illegitimate children where Vivaldi worked between 1703 and 1740.

Vivaldi also had some success with staging of his operas in Venice, Mantua and Vienna. After meeting the Emperor Charles VI, Vivaldi moved to Vienna hoping for preferment position. The Emperor died soon after Vivaldi's arrival, and the composer died a pauper, without a steady source of income. Though Vivaldi's music was well received during his lifetime, it later declined in popularity until its vigorous revival in the first half of the 20th century. Today, Vivaldi ranks among the most popular and widely recorded Baroque composers.

Antonio Vivaldi wrote several settings of the *Gloria*. RV 589 is the most familiar and popular piece of sacred music by Vivaldi; however, he was known to have written at least three *Gloria* settings. Only two survive (RV 588 and RV 589) whilst the other (RV 590) is presumably lost and is only mentioned in the *Kreuzherren catalogue*.

The *Gloria* RV 589 is the better known setting of the *Gloria*, simply known as the Vivaldi *Gloria* due to its outstanding popularity. This piece, along with its mother composition RV 588, was composed at the same time during Vivaldi's employment at the *Pieta*. *Gloria* RV 589 is more mature and original than its predecessor, however evidence of obvious inspiration still exist. The first movement's chorus shares similar key modulations to that of the first movement of RV 588, only modified to fit a duple meter instead of the triple meter of RV 588; the orchestral motifs are also shared, including octaval jumps in the primal motives of the piece. The second movement is much more

Commended as a compelling singer and actress, mezzo soprano **Loralie Kirkpatrick** is a strong presence on the operatic and concert stage. With repertoire extending from early music to contemporary, she is establishing herself as a versatile and dynamic performer. Loralie is a member of the handpicked ensemble Choir 21 with Soundstreams Canada. Also with Soundstreams, she played the role of Angel/Witch in the world premier of the Dora Award winning production of a Children's Crusade. In another world premier, Loralie created the role of Elizabeth d'Aunieres - the Elder in *Kamouraska* with Toronto's Opera in Concert. Other roles include Hansel in *Hansel and Gretel* with the Northern Lights Music Festival in Minnesota, the recording of the role of Trapes in Samuel Arnold's *Polly* for the Naxos label with the Aradia Ensemble,

dramatic in RV 589, but nevertheless shares with RV Anh. 23 in that the second movement of both employ the use of repetitious semiquavers underneath choral progressions. The *Qui Tollis* movement of RV 589 is rhythmically similar to the first few measures of RV 588 (and ultimately RV Anh. 23). The last movement, *Cum Sancto Spiritu* is essentially an "upgraded" version of Ruggieri's movement — that is to say, updated to fit the standards of the emerging late Baroque style, with the addition of accidentals not present in RV Anh. 23 and RV 588. The composition is in 12 parts:

1. Gloria in excelsis Deo (Chorus)
2. Et in terra pax (Chorus)
3. Laudamus te (Sopranos I and II)
4. Gratias agimus tibi (Chorus)
5. Propter magnam gloriam (Chorus)
6. Domine Deus (Soprano)
7. Domine, Fili unigenite (Chorus)
8. Domine Deus, Agnus Dei (Contralto and Chorus)
9. Qui tollis peccata mundi (Chorus)
10. Qui sedes ad dexteram Patris (Contralto)
11. Quoniam tu solus sanctus (Chorus)
12. Cum Sancto Spiritu (Chorus)

Translation of the text:

Glória in excélsis Deo
et in terra pax homínibus bonae voluntátis.
Laudámus te,
benedícimus te,
adorámus te,
glorificámus te,
grátias ágimus tibi
propter magnam glóriam tuam,
Dómine Deus, Rex caeléstis,
Deus Pater omnípotens.
Dómine Fili Unigénite, Iesu Christe,
Dómine Deus, Agnus Dei, Fílius Patris,
qui tollis peccáta mundi,
miserére nobis;
qui tollis peccáta mundi,
súscipe deprecationem nostram.
Qui sedes ad dexteram Patris,
miserére nobis.
Quóniam tu solus Sanctus, tu
solus Dóminus,
tu solus Altíssimus,
Iesu Christe, cum Sancto Spíritu:
in glória Dei Patris. Amen.

**Glory to God in the highest,
and on earth peace to people of good will.
We praise you,
we bless you,
we adore you,
we glorify you,
we give you thanks
for your great glory,
Lord God, heavenly King,
O God, almighty Father.
Lord Jesus Christ, only-begotten Son,
Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,
you take away the sins of the world,
have mercy on us;
you take away the sins of the world,
receive our prayer.
You sit at the right hand of the Father,
have mercy on us.
For you alone are the Holy One,
you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High,
Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God the Father. Amen**