

Giovanni Gabrieli



Praise the Lord

(Psalm 117,
arr.: Helge Skjeveland)

for SATB
mixed chorus

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While learning to play this fine Dorian piece on the organ in its original form, once when studying the Scriptures, I realized that the subject proportions fit the English words of Psalm 117 perfectly, so decided to dissect it into its constituent parts and set it chorally for that text.

The *tessitura* of the organ original is low for the basses, so

I transposed the music up a fourth, which also put the other voices in more happily comfortable *tessitura* for modern voices.

I simplified the organistic 16th- note trill-turn ornamentation in the soprano at ms. 6 to eighth notes so as to work better for singers. Also, in the alto at ms. 58, the original has a D (would have been G in my transposition) for the last note; but I deemed this an old copyist error, as stepwise motion to E (A here) seems better voice leading than the repeated note followed by a skip.

The *decelerando* ending, however, is a typically effusive Gabrieliesque *toccata*-like, ornate one not suited to being set for chorus as written. I therefore extracted essential choral parts from this to double the organ music (except for the bass line's end run, where the *finalis* G should be played on the pedal with a 16' stop added, providing the florid organ music below the choral system).

If the organist is not able to play the choral parts from this score, Ricordi has the Ricercare Primo in their ed. 2598 (Gabrieli organ works, Vol. II, ed. Sandro Dalla Libera, pp. 7 – 9), to be transposed *alla quarta alta* by sight.

— Helge Skjeveland,
Orem, Utah, USA,
Summer 2006

Giovanni Gabrieli Psalm 117 for SATB chorus with organ (Ricercare Primo, arr. & text added by Helge Skjveland)

MM *Maestoso con exultazione*
♩ = 85 [Gt: 8' & 4' non-chiff flutes]

Soprani

Alti

Tenori

Bassi

f

5

O praise the Lord, O praise Him all ye na— tions, for His mer— ciful kind— ness is

(*l. 8va*) O Praise the Lord, O Praise Him, all ye peo—

10

great to— ward us, and ho— ly is His name.

O praise the Lord, O praise Him all ye peo— ple. For His mer— ciful kind— ness is great to—

(*l. 8va*) — ple, for His mer— ci— ful kind— ness is great to— ward us, O praise

O praise the Lord, O praise Him all ye peo— ple, praise

15

O praise the Lord, O praise Him all ye peo— ple. For His mer— ci— ful kind— ness is great to— ward

— ward us, O praise ye the Lord praise Him all ye peo— ple. His mer— ci— ful

(*l. 8va*) ye the Lord. O praise the Lord, O praise Him all ye na—

ye the Lord. O praise the Lord, O praise Him all ye na— tions. the truth of the

20

us. O praise the Lord, O praise Him all ye na-tions praise Him all ye peo-ple
 kind-ness is great to-ward us, praise ye the Lord O praise Him all ye
 (c. 8va) -tions. O praise Him all ye peo-ple. O praise the Lord, O praise Him, all ye
 Lord is for-ev-er

25

(-ple) for His mer-ci-ful kind-ness is great O praise the
 na-tions. Praise ye the Lord, Praise ye the Lord, for His mer-
 (c. 8va) na-tions. for His mer-ci-ful kind-ness O praise the Lord, O praise Him, all ye na-tions: Praise
 O praise the Lord, O praise Him all ye peo-ple: Praise the Lord

30

35

Lord, O praise Him all ye peo-ple: For His mer-ci-ful kind-ness is great to-ward us
 -ci-ful kind-ness is for-ev-er all ye na-tions His mer-ci-ful kind-ness is great to-ward
 (c. 8va) ye the Lord. O praise the Lord, O praise Him, all ye na-tions
 O praise the Lord, O praise Him all ye peo-ple. Praise ye the Lord, O praise

40

(-us.) O Praise the Lord, O Praise Him, all ye peo — ple, the truth of the Lord en — dur — eth

(-ward) us. Praise ye the Lord; Praise the Lord; Praise ye the

(L. diva) O Praise the Lord, O Praise Him, all ye na — tions. O Praise the Lord, O Praise Him, all ye

O Praise Him: Praise ye the Lord!

45

for ev — er O praise the Lord, O praise Him all ye na —

Lord; For His truth is for — ev — ver O praise ye the Lord! O praise the

(L. diva) na — tions. For His truth is for — ev — ver praise ye the Lord! praise ye the

O praise the Lord, O praise Him all ye peo — ple, O praise ye Him!

50

55

- tions, truth is for — ev — ver O praise ye the Lord, praise the

Lord, O praise Him all ye peo — ple, praise ye the Lord O praise the Lord praise the

(L. diva) Lord! O praise the Lord, O praise Him all ye na — tions, praise ye the Lord, praise

O praise the Lord, O praise Him all ye peo —

60

Lord praise ye the Lord O praise ye the Lord

Lord O praise ye the Lord

(c. 8va) Him, O praise the Lord

- pl. O, O praise the Lord

poco a poco decelerando a largo.