

Gloria

Antonio Vivaldi (1678 - 1741)

Gloria
Et in terra pax hominibus
Laudamus te
Gratias agimus tibi
Propter magnam gloriam
Domine deus
Domine fil unigenite
Domine deus, agnus dei
Qui tollis peccata mundi
Qui sedes ad dexteram
Quoniam tu solus sanctus
Cum sancto spiritu

Nowadays, Vivaldi is amongst the most popular of all composers, but this has not always been the case. During his lifetime he did indeed enjoy considerable success, though his reputation was much greater in France, Holland and England than it was in his native Italy. He died in Vienna and was buried in a pauper's grave, and his music became neglected for a great many years. It wasn't until the emergence of the early music groups in the nineteen-sixties that his music once again enjoyed widespread popularity.

The *Gloria*, together with the *Four Seasons*, is undoubtedly Vivaldi's best-known work. He wrote it for the *Ospedale della Pieta*, the Venetian girls' orphanage where he taught music from 1703. The girls were given a thorough training in choral singing, the more gifted ones also being given instrumental tuition and extra voice coaching. According to contemporary reports, the concerts that they gave were of a very high standard, and the entrance fees contributed significantly to the maintenance of the orphanage.

The wonderfully sunny nature of the *Gloria*, with its distinctive melodies and rhythms, is characteristic of all of Vivaldi's music, giving it an immediate and universal appeal.

programme notes by John Bawden

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