SANCTUS

(from the HARMONIEMESSE)
by Franz Joseph Haydn
Arranged by Russell Robinson

The HARMONIEMESSE was written by Franz Joseph Haydn, one of the greatest classical composers in history. (The classical period of music history is generally considered to have begun around 1750, the year of J. S. Bach's death, and ended around 1820.) Haydn was born in 1732 in a small village in Austria and sang as a choirboy at the illustrious St. Stephen's Cathedral in Vienna when he was young. Haydn lived a long and productive life, writing all types of music—from church music to orchestral music. He died in Vienna in 1809 at the age of 77.

The HARMONIEMESSE (Harmony Mass) was one of six later masses that Haydn wrote, and it dates from 1802. The Sanctus from this mass was originally written for four-part chorus and orchestra. Only the Latin text is used in this arrangement since these classics should never be sung in English. A basic English translation follows, however:

Holy, Holy, Lord God of hosts, Heaven and earth sing His praises. Glory in the highest. Hosanna in the highest.

This arrangement has been written for Three-Part Mixed voices, so Part III (the boy's part) has a limited range. An introduction has been added to aid the initial entry of the voices. (The original has no introduction, beginning with measure 9.) The accompaniment has been arranged to capture the original flavor of the orchestra yet has been kept simple enough to make it accessible for the pianist. The optional repeat (measures 39–74) has been added by the arranger and is not in the original work.

In performance, the Sanctus should start slowly and then immediately become faster at measure 38. When forming the vowels, "Sanctus" should be pronounced sawn-ktoos, placing the accent on the first syllable. Rather than using a pure oh sound, "Dominus" should be pronounced daw-mee-noos, again placing the accent on the first syllable. (For further help with vowel pronunciation and vocal warm-ups, see WARM-UPS BY THE DOZEN by Russell Robinson - SVM01026).

Enjoy this wonderful Haydn classic!

FRANZ JOSEPH HAYDN (1732-1809) Arranged by RUSSELL ROBINSON (ASCAP)

Performance time: approx. 3:45

















