

Exultate justi in Domino

Giovanni Gabrieli (c. 1554 - 1612)

From *Sacrae Symphoniae*, Ch. 27, 1597

Details of Giovanni Gabrieli's early life are sparse. He was probably born in 1554 and studied composition with his famous uncle Andrea Gabrieli, then later Orlando di Lassus. By 1584 he had settled in Venice to take the position of principal organist at the Basilica di San Marco, followed by the similar position at the Scuola Grande di San Rocco. Thus, in his thirties he became the principal musician in the two most prestigious churches in Italy.

Gabrieli began his composition career with the popular vocal madrigals of that time, but eventually began favoring sacred music for vocal and instrumental forces. The unique design of St. Mark's Basilica, with its two opposing choir lofts, led to his characteristic antiphonal style: one group would begin from the left-sided loft, followed by a response from the group on the right. Even to this day the acoustics of the cathedral are such that the music is in perfect balance to the listener throughout the church.

The most famous compilation of his choral and instrumental works is the *Sacrae Symphoniae* of 1597; this work was taken from that collection. *Exultate justi in Domino* ("Rejoice in the Lord O ye righteous") was written for two choirs of four voices, with Choir A containing high voices (most probably boy sopranos and altos) and Choir B containing low voices (male tenors and basses). In this transcription Choir A employs trumpets and horns, and Choir B horn and trombones (if an Alto Trombone substitutes for Horn 1B the second choir is all trombones). Like many of the *Sacrae Symphoniae* it is highly antiphonal in nature and was probably meant to be performed in the acoustic space of a large church. Payment records that time indicate that, like most of Gabrieli's music at the time, it may have been performed with wind instruments such as cornetti and sackbuts doubling the voices.

This transcription was taken from the complete works (Giovanni Gabrieli *Opera Omnia*, American Institute of Musicology, Hänssler-Verlag, 1998). Editorial additions have been kept to a minimum: the slurs were taken from the text, while the dynamics are suggested by both the text and texture of the music. Musical interpretations should bear in mind that the work is vocal in nature, and the tempo should reflect the fact that the original was performed in a very large acoustic space.

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Full Score

from Sacrae Symphoniae, Ch. 27, 1597

for 8-part antiphonal Brass Choir

Giovanni Gabrieli
arranged by David Mathie

Andante (♩ = 88)

Trumpet in B♭ 1 A

Trumpet in B♭ 2 A

Choir A

*Horn 1 A

**Horn 2 A

+Horn 1 B

++Trombone 1 B

Choir B

++Trombone 2 B

Trombone 3 B

* A Trumpet part is included to substitute for Horn 1 A
** A Trombone part is included to substitute for Horn 2 A
+ An Alto Trombone part is included to substitute for Horn 1 B
++ Horn parts are included to substitute for Trombones 1 B & 2 B

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6

B♭ Tpt. 1

B♭ Tpt. 2

Hn. 1

Hn. 2

Hn. 1

Tbn. 1

Tbn. 2

Tbn. 3

The musical score is written for a brass ensemble. It consists of seven staves, each with a part label to its left. The staves are grouped by a brace on the left. The parts are: B♭ Tpt. 1, B♭ Tpt. 2, Hn. 1, Hn. 2, Hn. 1 (continuation), Tbn. 1, Tbn. 2, and Tbn. 3. The music is in 4/4 time and has a key signature of one flat (B♭). The score begins at measure 6, indicated by a '6' above the first staff. The B♭ Trumpets and Horns 1 and 2 play a rhythmic pattern of eighth and sixteenth notes. The Horn 1 (continuation) and Tubas play a more melodic line with some rests. The Tubas 1 and 2 play a rhythmic pattern of eighth and sixteenth notes. The Tubas 3 play a rhythmic pattern of eighth and sixteenth notes.

[illegible]