MUSICA ANTIQUATA

BEING

Essays in Modal Composition

PART I

BY

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Antiquare. In modum pristinum reducere.-Festus

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COLLECT FOR THE SUNDAY AFTER ASCENSION DAY (O God the King of Glory)

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THE CHORAL PORTIONS

OF THE ORDER OF THE

HOLY COMMUNION.

FOR FOUR VOICES,

THE TREBLE SINGING THE PLAIN SONG OF MERBECKE, WITH THE NECESSARY ADDITIONS.

BY

H. ELLIS WOOLDRIDGE.

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PREFACE.

THE music here offered for the choral part of the Order of Holy Communion consists, almost entirely, of a simple modal setting of the plainsong contained in Merbecke's "Book of Common Prayer Noted."

That work, however, which issued from the press of Richard Grafton, the King's printer, in 1550, was based upon the first Prayer Book of Edward the Sixth, and is in consequence, in several important respects, unsuitable to the modern use. Certain alterations and additions therefore have been made, in preparing the present work, in order to bring the music of Merbecke's composition into proper correspondence with the words of our modern Prayer Book service. The nature and extent of these variations, and the necessity for them, will appear from the following short account.

Kyrie eleison. Merbecke's Kyrie consists only of the three short ejaculations —Lord have mercy upon us; Christ have mercy upon us; Lord have mercy upon us—as in the old unreformed service. The music given for the first of these has been adopted in this work for the opening clause of the Responses to the Commandments; the remaining clauses of the Responses, for which no music exists in Merbecke, have been composed upon the words of the later Prayer Books.

The Creed. The order of the clauses, And he shall come again, &c., and Whose kingdom, &c., is in Merbecke the reverse of ours. This has, of course, been corrected here.

Sanctus and Benedictus. At the request of musicians familiar with the modern choral practice, I have included in the present work a setting of the Benedictus, the plainsong of which is placed by Merbecke, continuing the old use, immediately after the Sanctus.¹ Merbecke's final clause of the Sanctus is Osanna in the highest. This, of course, is in accordance with the unreformed use, but contrary to the later Prayer Book version, which gives Glory be to thee, &c. This latter clause is found, in Merbecke, concluding the Benedictus. In this work the Benedictus receives its proper ending, Osanna, &c., and the Sanctus is made to end as in our Prayer Book, with Glory be to thee, &c.

Paternoster. The Lord's Prayer, in Merbecke's time, was sung by the priest alone as far as the word *temptation*, the people responding, *But deliver us from evil*. The Doxology, *For thine is the kingdom*, &c., was apparently not sung, since music for it is wanting in Merbecke; this has now been composed to accompany the words

¹ In the same request was included the Agnus Dei, which also appears in Merbecke's book at the end of the service, immediately before the Post Communions.

of the Prayer Book. It may also be mentioned that in Merbecke's original the music of the *Paternoster* appears in notes of only half-value, as compared with the rest of the book¹; this has been corrected in the present work, and the notation is thus made consistent throughout.

Gloria. In the Gloria, as given here, one of the clauses, Thou that takest away, &c., appears within brackets. This clause is not to be found either in Merbecke's version or in Edward's first Prayer Book, in accordance with which that version was composed. It occurs for the first time in Edward's second Prayer Book, 1552. The music given for it in our setting is a mere repetition of that composed by Merbecke for the clauses in the first Prayer Book.

Finally, attention may be drawn to two alterations of notes given in Merbecke. In the *Creed* the opening note of the priest's intonation is in the modern use erroneously sung as C; Merbecke's note is D. In the *Paternoster*, the note which, six times repeated, opens Merbecke's composition is given as B; this, however, must be a mistake, since B is quite inadmissible as an initial in Mode VIII., while C, which is given in Dr. Rimbault's edition (1845), from a copy in his possession, is the most usual one, and has been adopted here.

H. E. W.

 $^1_{\rm c}$ The shortness of the notes was perhaps intended to express the greater rapidity of the single voice in melody.

KYRIE ELEISON.



THE CREED.

Mode IX, transposed.

ORGAN.









THE OFFERTORIES.

I.





II.



III.



IV.



SANCTUS.



BENEDICTUS.



AGNUS DEI.



PATER NOSTER.



ORGAN.











GLORIA IN EXCELSIS.







APPENDIX.

TRANSPOSITIONS.

OFFERTORIES.

I.





II.







AGNUS DEI.









GLORIA IN EXCELSIS.

























THE COLLECT

FOR THE SUNDAY AFTER ASCENSION DAY.

"O GOD, THE KING OF GLORY."

FOR FOUR VOICES.

BY

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H. E. WOOLDRIDGE.















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