

Sing Ye to the Lord, Singet Dem Herrn, BWV 225: An Ode to Divine Glory and Praise

Sing Ye to the Lord, Singet Dem Herrn, BWV 225 is a sacred cantata composed by Johann Sebastian Bach in Leipzig for the Third Day of Christmas. The work was first performed on December 26, 1723, and was published in Bach's collection of sacred cantatas in 1724.

Sing Ye to the Lord is a festive and uplifting work that celebrates the birth of Jesus Christ. The cantata is based on the Lutheran liturgy for the Third Day of Christmas, which includes the Gospel reading from Luke 2:15-20, in which the shepherds visit the manger and worship the newborn Savior.



Sing Ye to the Lord (Singet dem Herrn), BWV 225: Motet for SSAATTBB divisi Double Chorus with English and German Text (Choral Score) (Kalmus Edition)

by Marc A Hertzman

★★★★☆ 4.5 out of 5

Language : English

File size : 19222 KB

Screen Reader: Supported

Print length : 96 pages



Text

The text of Sing Ye to the Lord is a combination of biblical verses and poetry. The biblical verses are taken from the Gospel reading for the Third

Day of Christmas, while the poetry was written by Bach's librettist, Christian Friedrich Henrici (Picander). The text of the cantata is as follows:

1. Chorus: Sing ye to the Lord, singet dem Herrn! For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, which is Christ the Lord.
Hallelujah.
2. Recitative: And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things that they had heard and seen, as it was told unto them.
3. Aria: Glory to God in the highest! And on earth peace, goodwill toward men.
4. Recitative: And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night.
5. Chorus: And lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid.
6. Recitative: And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people.
7. Aria: For unto you is born this day a Savior, which is Christ the Lord.
8. Recitative: And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying,
9. Chorus: Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, goodwill toward men.

Music

The music of Sing Ye to the Lord is festive and joyful, with a strong emphasis on the choruses. The cantata is scored for four soloists (soprano,

alto, tenor, and bass), a four-part chorus, and an orchestra of two oboes, two trumpets, timpani, and strings.

The opening chorus is a majestic and celebratory proclamation of the birth of Jesus Christ. The chorus is written in a homophonic style, with all four voices singing the same melody. The texture is thick and rich, with the oboes and trumpets adding a bright and festive sound.

The recitatives are accompanied by a continuo of cello and harpsichord. The recitatives are expressive and declamatory, and they help to advance the narrative of the cantata.

The arias are more lyrical and expressive than the recitatives. The first aria, "Glory to God in the highest," is a beautiful and moving meditation on the birth of Jesus Christ. The aria is written for soprano and is accompanied by a continuo of cello and harpsichord. The second aria, "For unto you is born this day a Savior," is a more joyful and celebratory aria. The aria is written for tenor and is accompanied by a continuo of cello and harpsichord.

The closing chorus is a triumphant and uplifting celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ. The chorus is written in a homophonic style, with all four voices singing the same melody. The texture is thick and rich, with the oboes and trumpets adding a bright and festive sound.

Commentary

Sing Ye to the Lord is one of Bach's most joyful and celebratory cantatas. The work is a powerful and moving expression of the joy and peace that comes from the birth of Jesus Christ.

The cantata is also a significant work in Bach's development as a composer. Sing Ye to the Lord is one of the first cantatas in which Bach uses the chorale as a structural element. The chorale is a traditional Lutheran hymn that is sung at the end of each movement. In Sing Ye to the Lord, Bach uses the chorale to unify the cantata and to provide a sense of closure.

Performance History

Sing Ye to the Lord has been performed by many of the world's leading orchestras and choirs. The cantata was first performed in Leipzig on December 26, 1723. The cantata has also been performed in many other cities, including London, Paris, New York, and Tokyo.

Sing Ye to the Lord is a popular choice for Christmas concerts. The cantata is a joyful and uplifting work that is sure to put you in the Christmas spirit.



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