Editor's Note

Antonio Vivaldi was a prolific composer and violin virtuoso in Venice, Italy during the Baroque era. Born in Venice, he worked there much of his life, making concert tours throughout Europe. Vivaldi is especially revered today for his violin concertos, although he wrote a variety of instrumental and vocal works.

Vivaldi's study of music began early in life as a violinist. In order to continue his musical studies, he chose to become a Roman Catholic priest. After his ordination to the priesthood, he was allowed to accept the music position at the Conservatory of the Pieta in Venice. At this school for orphaned and disadvantaged girls he conducted Saturday and Sunday evening concerts of his music. His fame as composer and violinist soon spread. Often called *prete rosso* ("red priest") because of his red hair, he suffered ill health and problems with church authorities concerning his behavior as a priest. He left the active service of the priesthood the year after his appointment to the conservatory and devoted all of his time to conducting, composing, performing and teaching music. His concertos, numbering over 400, include the famous *Le Quattro Station (The Four Seasons)*. He also wrote chamber works, operas and a variety of sacred choral works. His *Gloria in D Major is* particularly popular today.

Vivaldi's exuberant chorus "Dixit Dominus" is the first provement from his choral setting of Psalm 110 titled *Dixit Dominus*, RV 594. Scored originally for two choirs, two oboes, two trumpets, strings, and basso continuouths edition and arrangement for only one choir features a shortened keyboard version of the original instrumental parts. Modern clefs, tempo and dynamic indications, and optional parts for flutes and cello (derived from Vivaldi's score) have also been included by the editor. Additionally, the original work has been transposed down one half step to the key of D-flat.

"Dixit Dominus" should be energetically performed with a strong and constant pulse, and the normally energized syllables should be emphasized while contrasting the various musical ideas with the suggested dynamic changes. Those syllables are underlined in the following pronunciation guide.

Pronunciation Guide

Di-xit Do-mi-nus Do-mi-no me-o:

Nesit do-mi-nus do-mi-no me-o

The Lord said to my Lord:

Se de a dex-tris me-is. <u>se</u>-de a <u>deks</u>-tris <u>me</u>-is Sit down at my right hand.

Please see *Alfred's IPA Made Easy* (42789) for further explanation of the International Phonetic Alphabet.

DIXIT DOMINUS

from Dixit Dominus, RV 594

for S.A.B. voices and piano with optional flutes, cello, and PianoTrax CD*

Music by ANTONIO VIVALDI (1678-1741)

Edited and Arranged by





^{*} Also available for S.A.T.B. (46915). PianoTrax 10 Accompaniment CD available (46743). Please visit *alfred.com/choralparts* to download free parts for two flutes and cello.















