GLORIA IN EXCELSIS DEO

From the Heiligmesse

Two-Part, accompanied

FRANZ JOSEPH HAYDN Arranged by RUSSELL ROBINSON

PERFORMANCE NOTES

Franz Joseph Haydn was known as the "father of the Classical Style." The Classical style period is generally from 1750-1820 and included the great composers Beethoven and Mozart. (Haydn was a friend to Mozart and taught Beethoven musical composition.) Haydn was extremely talented. He was playing violin and organ and singing in the church at the age of 6. He dedicated most of his life as Music Director to Prince Esterhazy, a Hungarian prince.

This arrangement is from the "Gloria" movement of the *Heiligmesse* (or Heilig Mass). It so-called as there is a theme in one of the movements that sounds much like the Heilig which was a popular church song in Haydn's time. The mass was actually written for a Roman Catholic saint named St. Bernard and is also known as the Saint Bernard Mass.

The original was in the key of B-flat; however this arrangement has been lowered to the key of F. In this way, the highest note for the sopranos is a high re (fifth line in the treble clef) rather than a high B-flat. In addition, the piano part has been arranged so that it is not as technically difficult as previous editions which were realizations of the orchestra parts.

The repeat at measure 55 back to measure 2 has been added to extend the work should the director choose to do so. The length of the piece is 2 minutes and 20 seconds without the repeat and 4 minutes with the repeat.

I have tried to capture the "flavor" of this great piece of choral literature and make it accessible to all choirs.

Enjoy!



Dedicated to the Southwest Iowa Choral Directors Association 1999 Junior Honor Choir

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From the "Heiligmesse"















