

Herbert Howells

Magnificat and Nunc Dimitis in G

SATB, organ

Herbert Howells's earliest setting of the *Magnificat* and *Nunc Dimitis* as a set was written around 1918 (about the same time as the early gems *A Spotless Rose* and *Here is the Little Door*) and published in 1920 – it is therefore now in the public domain in the United States (though not yet elsewhere).

In a 1982 lecture on Howells's sacred music, Richard Lloyd is nothing but complimentary: "I have never understood why [the Magnificat and Nunc Dimitis in G] has not been more popular with choirs, or at least with choirmasters. Compared with his more recent settings, it is not too difficult, it has a compelling rhythmic drive to it if not taken too slowly, and it is immediately attractive, with interesting lines for all the voices. Apart from two or three awkward places, it is not too difficult for the organist either. How I should love to hear it sung by 700 voices at a Diocesan Choirs' Festival!"

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Ross Jallo, July 2019

Magnificat and Nunc Dimitis in G

Herbert Howells (1892-1983)

edited by Ross Jallo

MAGNIFICAT

Poco allegro

mf

Soprano

Alto

Tenor

Bass

Gt. *mf*

8

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3

16

— my Sa - viour. For he

God my Sa - viour.

God my Sa - viour.

God my Sa - viour.

dim.

24

hath re - gard - ed the low - li - ness of his hand-maid - en.

— — — | 3 — — — | 2 — — —

— — — | 3 — — — | 2 — — —

— — — | 3 — — — | 2 — — —

sw. p.

cresc.

Gt. Ped. in

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30

f

For be - hold, from hence - forth, all ge-ne -

f

For from hence - forth, all ge - ne -

f

For be - hold, from hence - forth, all ge - ne -

f

For be - hold, from hence - forth, all ge - ne -

Bass Clef **8**

For be - hold, from hence - forth, all ge - ne -

38

ra - tions shall call me bless - ed.

ra - tions shall call me bless - ed.

ra - tions shall call me bless - ed.

ra - tions shall call me bless - ed.

Gt. *f*

ra - tions shall call me

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5

46

più f

For he that is migh - ty hath mag -

For he that is migh - ty hath mag -

For he that is migh - ty hath mag -

For he that is migh - ty hath mag -

For he that is migh - ty hath mag -

8

BASSO CONTINUO

54

mp

- ni - fied me, _____ and ho - ly,

- ni - fied me, _____

- ni - fied me, _____ and

- ni - fied me, _____

Sw. mf

BASSO CONTINUO

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62

pp

and ho - ly is his _____
pp
 and ho - ly is his _____
pp
 ho - ly, and ho - ly is his
p
pp
 and ho - ly is his _____ his _____

70

p espressivo

Name. And his mer - cy _____ is on them _____
 Name.
 Name.
 Name.
 Name.

p

pp

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7

79

— that fear him, though-out all ge-ne-ra-tions.

87

— His mer-cy is on them that fear him, though-

95

— out all ge-ne-ra-tions.

Gt. *f*

3

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101 ***ff***

He hath shew - ed strength with his arm; he hath scat-ter'd the
He hath shew - ed strength with his arm; he hath scat-ter'd the
He hath shew - ed strength with his arm; he hath scat-ter'd the
He hath shew - ed strength with his arm; he hath scat-ter'd the

109

proud in the i - ma - gi - na - tion of their hearts.
proud in the i - ma - gi - na - tion of their hearts.
proud in the i - ma - gi - na - tion of their hearts.
proud in the i - ma - gi - na - tion of their hearts.

V

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9

117

He hath put down the migh - ty from their seat,
He hath put down the migh - ty from their seat,
He hath put down the migh - ty from their seat,
He hath put down the migh - ty from their seat,
He hath put down the migh - ty from their seat,

121

and hath ex - alt - - -
and hath ex - alt - - -
and hath ex - alt - - -
and hath ex - alt - - -

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128

mf

and hath ex - alt - ed the
and hath ex - alt - ed the
alt - ed, ex - alt - ed the
ed, ex - alt - ed the

p

p

p

p

*p**mp espressivo*

hum - ble and meek. He hath fill -

p

hum - ble and meek.

p

hum - ble and meek.

p

hum - ble and meek.

pp

Ch. *mp*

8

8

141

ed the hun - gry with good things,

Sw. *più p*

149 *mp*

and the rich he hath sent emp - ty a - way.

157

rallentando

Poco meno
p mosso

He,
p

He,

p

He,

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165

— re - mem - b'ring his mer - cy, hath holp - en his ser -

— re - mem - b'ring his mer - cy, hath holp - en his ser -

mp

He, — re - mem - b'ring his mer - cy, hath holp - en his ser -

— re - mem - b'ring his mer - cy, hath holp - en his ser -

— re - mem - b'ring his mer - cy, hath holp - en his ser -

— re - mem - b'ring his mer - cy, hath holp - en his ser -

173

- vant Is - ra - el, as he pro - mis - ed to our fore - fa - thers,

- vant Is - ra - el, as he pro - mis - ed to our fore - fa - thers,

ser - vant Is - ra - el, as he pro - mis - ed to our fore - fa - thers,

- vant Is - ra - el, as he pro - mis - ed to our fore - fa - thers,

-

176 *f*

poco accelerando

mf

A - bra-ham and his seed, for ev - - - er.

A - bra-ham and his seed, for ev - - - er.

A - bra-ham and his seed, for ev - - - er.

A - bra-ham and his seed, for ev - - - er.

Ch. *mf*

179

allargando *f*

Glo

Glo

Glo

Glo

Gt. *f*

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accelerando

Tempo primo

mf

183

- - ry be to the Fa - ther, and to the Son, _____ and to the
 - - ry be to the Fa - ther, and to the Son, _____ and to the
 - - ry be to the Fa - ther, and to the Son, _____ and to the
 - - ry be to the Fa - ther, and to the Son, _____ and to the
 - - ry be to the Fa - ther, and to the Son, _____ and to the

mf

mf cresc.

186

Ho - - - ly Ghost: _____ as it was in the be-
 Ho - - - ly Ghost: _____ as it was in the be-
 Ho - - - ly Ghost: _____ as it was in the be-
 Ho - - - ly Ghost: _____ as it was in the be-

mf cresc.

mf cresc.

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15

189

gin-nings, is now, _____ and ev-er shall _____ be,
 gin-nings, is now, _____ and ev-er shall _____ be,
 gin-nings, is now, _____ and ev-er shall _____ be,
 gin-nings, is now, _____ and ev-er shall _____ be,

195

allargando
ff

world with-
 world with-
 world with-
 world with-

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203

out end, A men.

NUNC DIMITTIS

Non troppo lento, ma assai espressivo

Soprano

Alto

Tenor

Bass

Sw.p

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17

4

mf

Lord, now let - test thou thy ser - vant de - part in

8

mf

Lord, now let - test thou thy ser - vant de - part in

p

peace, ac - cord - ing to thy word;

12

peace, ac - cord - ing to thy word;

mf

for mine eyes have seen thy sal -

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*poco a poco più animato**mf*

For mine

For mine eyes have seen thy sal -

for mine eyes have seen thy sal -

va - tion, which thou hast pre - par - ed, which thou

eyes have seen thy sal - va - tion, which thou hast pre - pared be - fore the
*più cresc.*va - tion, which thou hast pre - par - ed be - fore the
*più cresc.*va - tion, which thou hast pre - par - ed be - fore the
più cresc.

hast pre - par - ed be - fore the

più cresc.

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19

24 *allargando*

face of all people to be a
face of all people to be a

28

light to ligh - ten the Gen - tiles, and to be the glo -
light to ligh - ten the Gen - tiles, and to be the glo -
light to ligh - ten the Gen - tiles, and to be the glo -
light to ligh - ten the Gen - tiles, and to be the glo -

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Poco più mosso

32

- ry of thy peo - ple Is - ra - el. Glo - ry
 - ry of thy peo - ple Is - ra - el. Glo - ry
 - ry of thy peo - ple Is - ra - el. Glo - ry
 - ry of thy peo - ple Is - ra - el. Glo - ry

Gt. *f* *ff*

36

be to the Fa - ther, and to the Son, and to the
 be to the Fa - ther, and to the Son, and to the
 be to the Fa - ther, and to the Son, and to the
 be to the Fa - ther, and to the Son, and to the

f

40

Ho - ly Ghost:
as it
as it as it
as it was

44

f
as it was in the begin - ning, is now, and
was in the be - gin - ning, is now, and
was in the be - gin - ning, is now, and
in the be - gin - ning, is now, and
ff

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allargando A tempo

48

ev - er shall be, world without end,
ev - er shall be, world without end,
ev - er shall be, world without end,
ev - er shall be, world without end,

52

rallentando

A - - - men.
A - - - men.
A - - - men.
A - - - men.