

EDITOR'S NOTE

Franz Danzi (1763-1826) was born in Schwetzingen, Germany, and by the age of fifteen became a member of the famed orchestra in Mannheim. After the Mannheim court moved to Munich, Danzi eventually followed, where he was appointed vice Kapellmeister. From Munich Danzi moved to Stuttgart and ultimately Karlsruhe, where he spent the remainder of his life there as Kapellmeister. Known more for his instrumental chamber music, Danzi composed over one hundred sacred choral works, demonstrating an advanced chromatic language hinting at the approaching Romantic period.

This edition of Franz Danzi's *NISI DOMINUS* (Psalm 126) is based upon a hand copied score from 1830 (owned by the Cathedral Choir of Speyer), preserved in the music archive of Landesbibliothekszenrum Rheinland-Pfalz in Speyer, Germany, catalogue number Mus D Hs 77. The score is laid out over twelve pages, eight staves per page. The title page reads: *Nisi Dominus./ Psalm 126/ di/ Francesco Danzi*. This composition is written for SATB choir, two violins, viola, cello, bass and continuo.

The present edition adheres closely to the above mentioned source, noting editorial markings in parentheses. Voice parts, where notated in moveable clefs, were rewritten in treble clef; phrase markings in the voice parts were added where two or more notes occurred for a single syllable of text.

Martin Banner

Latin

Nisi Dominus aedificaverit domum, in vanum laboraverunt qui aedificant eam, custodierit civitatem, frustra vigilat qui custodit eam.

Vanum est vobis ante lucem surgere, surgite postquam sederitis, qui manducatis panem doloris. Cum dederit dilectis suis somnum.

Ecce hereditas Domini filii, merces fructus ventris.

Sicut sagittae in manu potentis, ita filii excussorum.

Beatus vir qui implevit desiderium suum ex ipsis, non confundetur cum loquetur inimicis in porta.

Gloria Patri et Filio, et Spiritui Sancto. Sicut erat in principio et nunc et semper et in saecula saeculorum, Amen.

English

Unless the Lord builds the house, the laborers work in vain, unless the Lord guards the city, the guardians watch in vain.

It is in vain that you rise before dawn, that you rise after you have sat, you that eat the bread of sorrow. He will give sleep to his beloved.

Behold the Lord's inheritance are the children, the reward is the fruit of the womb.

Like arrows in the mighty's hand, so the children of those who are cast out.

Blessed is the man who has filled his desire from these things, he will not be confounded when he speaks to his enemies at the gate.

Glory to the Father, the Son and Holy Spirit. As it was in the beginning, is now and will always be, Amen.