

# MONTEVDERDI AND THE GLORY OF VENICE

## TEXTS AND TRANSLATIONS

### O Jesu mea vita

O Jesu mea vita,  
In quo est vera salus,  
O lumen gloriae amate Jesu  
O cara pulchritudo  
Tribue mihi tuam  
Dulcedinem mellifluam gustandam  
O vita mea, O Gloria coelorum  
Ah restringe me tibi in aeternum.  
O Jesu, lux mea, spes mea,  
Cor meum, do me tibi  
O Jesu mea vita.

O Jesus my life,  
In whom is true salvation,  
O glorious light, beloved Lord,  
O dear beauty,  
Bestow on me the saviour  
Of thy honeyed sweetness.  
O my life, O glory of the heavens,  
Clasp me to thee for all eternity!  
My light, my hope,  
My heart, I give myself to Thee,  
O Jesus, my life.

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### Dixit Dominus Psalm 109

Dixit Dominus domino meo: sede a dextris meis,  
donec ponam inimicos tuos scabellum pedum tuorum.

The Lord said to my lord: sit at my right hand,  
until I make your enemies a stool for your feet.

Virgam virtutis tuae emittet Dominus ex Sion:  
dominare in medio inimicorum tuorum.

The Lord sends the rod of your strength out of Zion,  
to rule in the midst of your enemies.

Tecum principium in die virtutis tuae  
in splendoribus sanctorum;  
Ex utero ante luciferum genui te.

At thy beginning in thy day of glory  
in the splendour of the holy places,  
before the first light I begat thee.

Juravit Dominus et non poenitebit eum:  
Tu es sacerdos in aeternum secundum ordinem Melchisedech.

The Lord has sworn and will not repent;  
you are a priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek.

Dominus a dextris tuis  
confregit in die irae suae reges.

The Lord at your right hand  
has broken kings in the day of his wrath.

Judicabit in nationibus implebit ruinas:  
conquassabit capita in terra multorum.

He will judge among the nations, and fill them with ruination;  
he will shatter the heads of many in the land.

De torrente in via bibet:  
propterea exaltabit caput.

He drinks of the torrent on the way;  
therefore will he lift up his head.

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

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

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### Christe, adoramus te

Christe, adoramus te,  
Et benedicimus tibi,  
Quia per sanctam crucem tuam  
Redemisti mundum.  
Domine, miserere nobis.

Christ, we adore you  
And we bless you,  
Because by your holy cross  
You have redeemed the world.  
Lord, have mercy on us.

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Cantate Domino  
Psalm 97

Cantate Domino canticum novum:  
cantate et benedicite nomini ejus  
quia mirabilia fecit.  
Cantate et exultavit et psallite  
in cythara et voce psalmi  
quia mirabilia fecit.

Sing unto the Lord a new song:  
Sing and bless his name  
for he has done great things.  
Sing and exult and praise  
with the lute and the voice of a psalm  
for he has done great things.

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Laudate Dominum in sanctis ejus.  
Psalm 150

Laudate Dominum in sanctis ejus.  
Laudate eum in firmamento virtutis ejus.  
Laudate eum in sono tubae.  
Laudate eum in psalterio et citara.  
Laudate eum in tympano et choro.  
Laudate eum in cimbali bene sonantibus.  
Laudate eum in cimbali jubilationibus.  
Omnis spiritus laudat Dominum. Alleluia.

Praise God in his holiness;  
Praise him the the firmament of his power.  
Praise Him with the sound of the trumpet,  
praise Him upon the psaltery and harp.  
Praise Him in the timbrel and choir,  
Praise Him upon the well-tuned cymbals;  
Praise Him upon the cymbals of rejoicing.  
Let everything that has breath praise the Lord. Alleluia.

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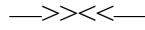
Sanctus & Agnus Dei from *Messa a quattro voci*

Sanctus, Sanctus, Sanctus,  
Domine Deus Sabaoth,  
Pleni sunt caeli et terra gloria tua.  
Osanna in excelsis!

Holy, Holy, Holy,  
Lord God of Hosts,  
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.  
Hosanna in the highest!

Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi,  
miserere nobis.  
Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi,  
miserere nobis.  
Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi,  
dona nobis pacem.

Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world,  
have mercy on us.  
Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world,  
have mercy on us.  
Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world,  
grant us peace.



Beatus vir  
Psalm 112

Beatus vir qui timet Dominum,  
in mandatis ejus volet nimis.  
Potens in terra erit semen ejus;  
generatio rectorum benedicetur.

Gloria et divitiae in domo ejus,  
et justitia ejus manet in saeculum saeculi.  
Exortum est in tenebris lumen rectis;  
misericors, et miserator, et justus.

Jucundus homo qui miseretur et commodat;  
disponet sermones suos in judicio.  
Quia in aeternum non commovebitur.

In memoria aeterna erit justus;  
ab auditione mala non timebit.

Paratum cor ejus sperare in Domino.  
Confirmatum est cor ejus; non commovebitur donec despiciat  
inimicos suos.

Dispersit, dedit pauperibus.  
Justitia ejus manet in saeculum saeculi.  
Cornu ejus exaltabitur in gloria.

Peccator videbit, et irascetur,  
dentibus suis fremet et tabescet,  
desiderium peccatorum peribit.

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

Blessed be the man that feareth the Lord,  
that delighteth greatly in his commandments.  
His seed shall be mighty upon the earth;  
the generation of the upright shall be blessed.

Wealth and riches shall be in his house:  
and his righteousness endureth forever.  
Unto the upright there ariseth light in the darkness:  
he is gracious, full of compassion and righteous.

A good man sheweth favour, and lendeth;  
he will guide his affairs with discretion.  
For he shall never be moved.

The righteous shall be in everlasting remembrance.  
He shall not be afraid of evil tidings.

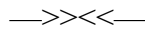
His heart is fixed, trusting in the Lord.  
His heart is established, and will not shrink  
Until he sees his desire upon his enemies.

He hath dispersed, he hath given to the poor; his righteousness  
endureth forever;  
his horn shall be exalted with honour.

The wicked shall see it, and be grieved;  
he shall gnash his teeth and melt away;  
the desire of the ungodly shall perish.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit,  
As it was in the beginning, and now, and ever shall be, world  
without end. Amen

**INTERMISSION**



Sì, ch'io vorrei morire

Sì, ch'io vorrei morire,  
ora ch'io bacio, amore,  
la bella bocca del mio amato core.

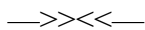
Ahi, car' e dolce lingua,  
datemi tanto umore,  
che di dolcezza in questo sen' m'estingua!

Ahi, vita mia, a questo bianco seno,  
deh, stringetemi fin ch'io venga meno!  
Ahi, bocca! Ahi, baci! Ahi, lingua! Torn' a dire:  
Sì, ch'io vorrei morire!

Yes, I would like to die,  
now that I'm kissing, sweetheart,  
the luscious lips of my darling beloved.

Ah! dear, dainty tongue,  
give me so much of your liquid  
that I die of delight on your breast!

Ah, my love, to this white breast  
ah, crush me until I faint!  
Ah mouth! Ah kisses! Ah tongue! I say again:  
Yes, I would like to die!



### Zefiro torna, e 'l bel tempo rimena

Zefiro torna, e 'l bel tempo rimena,  
e i fiori et l'erbe, sua dolce famiglia,  
et garrir Progne et pianger Philomena,  
et primavera candida et vermiglia.

Ridono i prati, e'l ciel si rasserena;  
Giove s'allegra di mirar sua figlia;  
l'aria et l'acqua et la terra è d'amor piena;  
ogni animal d'amar si riconsiglia.

Ma per me, lasso, tornano i piú gravi  
sospiri, che del cor profondo tragge  
quella ch'al ciel se ne portò le chiavi;

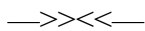
et cantar augelletti, et fiorir piagge,  
e 'n belle donne honeste atti soavi  
sono un deserto, et fere aspre et selvagge.

Zephyr returns and brings fair weather,  
and the flowers and herbs, his sweet family,  
and Procne singing and Philomela weeping,  
and the white springtime, and the vermilion.

The meadows smile, and the skies grow clear:  
Jupiter is joyful, gazing at his daughter:  
the air and earth and water are filled with love:  
every animal is reconciled to loving.

But to me, alas, there return the heaviest  
sighs that she draws from the deepest heart,  
who took the keys of it away to heaven:

and the song of little birds, and the flowering fields,  
and the sweet, virtuous actions of women  
are a wasteland to me, of bitter and savage creatures.



### Zefiro torna e di soavi accenti

Zefiro torna e di soavi accenti  
L'aer fa grato e' il pié discioglie a l'onde  
e, mormoranda tra le verdi fronde,  
fa danzar al bel suon su'l prato i fiori.

Inghirlandato il crin Fillide e Clori  
note temprando lor care e gioconde;  
e da monti e da valli ime e profound  
raddoppian l'armonia gli antri canori  
Sorge piú vaga in ciel l'aurora, e'l sole,  
sparge piú luci d'or; piú puro argento  
fregia di Teti il bel ceruleo manto.

Sol io, per selve abbandonate e sole,  
l'ardor di due begli occhi e'l mio tormento,  
come vuol mia ventura, hor piango hor canto.

Zephyr returns and with sweet accents  
Makes the air pleasing and melts the frozen waters,  
And murmuring through the green branches  
Makes the flowers in the field dance to its sweet sound;

Crown with a garland the heads of Phylla and Chloris  
With notes tempered by love and joy,  
From mountains and valleys high and deep  
And sonorous caves that echo in harmony.  
The dawn rises eagerly into the heavens and the sun  
Scatters rays of gold, and of the purest silver,  
Like embroidery on the cerulean mantle of Thetis.

But I, in abandoned forests, am alone.  
The ardour of two beautiful eyes is my torment;  
As my Fate wills it, now I weep, now I sing.

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*Orfeo – Act I*

**Pastore**

In questo lieto e fortunato giorno,  
Ch'ha posto fine à gli amorosi affanni  
Del nostro Semideo, cantiam Pastori,  
In sì soavi accenti,  
Che sian degni d'Orfeo nostri concenti.

Oggi fatt'è pietosa  
L'alma già si sdegnosa  
De la bella Euridice.  
Oggi fatt'è felice  
Orfeo nel sen di lei, per cui già tanto  
Per queste selve hà sospirato, e pianto.

Dunque in si lieto e fortunato giorno  
Ch'ha posto fine a gli amorosi affanni  
Del nostro Semideo, cantiam Pastori,  
In si soavi accenti,  
Che sian degni d' Orfeo nostri concenti.

**Coro**

Vieni, Imeneo, deh, vieni,  
E la tua face ardente  
Sia quasi un sol nascente  
Ch'apporti a questi amanti i dì sereni,  
E lunge homai disgombrè  
Degli affanni e del duol gli orrori e l'ombre.

**Ninfa**

Muse, honor di Parnaso, amor del Cielo,  
Gentil conforto à sconsolato core,  
Vostre cetre sonore  
Squarcino d'ogni nube il fosco velo;  
E mentre oggi propizio al nostro Orfeo,  
Invochiam Imeneo  
Su ben temperate corde,  
Sia il vostro canto al nostro suon concorde.

**Choro**

Lasciate i monti,  
Lasciate i fonti,  
Ninfe vezzos'e liete,  
E in questi prati  
Ai balli usati  
Vago il bel piè rendete.

Qui miri il sole  
Vostre carole,  
Più vaghe assai di quelle,  
Ond'à la Luna,  
La notte bruna,  
Danzano in Ciel le stelle.

Lasciate i monti,  
lasciate i fonti,  
Ninfe vezzos'e liete,  
E in questi prati  
ai balli usati  
Vago il bel piè rendete.

**Shepherd**

On this happy and auspicious day  
Which ends the amorous torments  
Of our Demigod, let us sing, Shepherds,  
With sweet accents,  
May our singing be worthy of Orfeo.

Today has made merciful  
The formerly disdainful soul  
Of fair Euridice.  
Today has made happy  
Orfeo in the bosom of her for whom he once  
Sighed and wept throughout these woods.

Thus on such a happy and auspicious day  
Which ends the amorous torments  
Of our Demigod, let us sing, Shepherds,  
With sweet accents,  
May our singing be worthy of Orfeo

**Chorus**

Come, Hymen, do come,  
And may your ardent torch  
Be like a rising sun  
That brings these lovers peaceful days  
And forever banish  
The horrors and shadows of torments and grief.

**Nymph**

Muses, honour of Parnassus, love of Heaven,  
Gentle comfort to the disconsolate heart,  
The music of your lyres  
Tears apart the dark veil of every cloud:  
And while today, to favor our Orfeo,  
We call to Hymen  
On well-tempered strings,  
Let our music tune with your song.

**Chorus**

Leave the mountains,  
Leave the fountains,  
Lovely and joyful Nymphs.  
And in these meadows  
To the traditional dances  
Let your fair feet rejoice.

Here the sun beholds  
Your dancing,  
More lovely than  
When, for the moon  
In the dark night,  
The stars themselves dance in Heaven.

Leave the mountains,  
Leave the fountains,  
Lovely and joyful Nymphs.  
And in these meadows  
To the traditional dances  
Let your fair feet rejoice.

Poi di bei fiori  
Per voi s'honori  
Di questi amanti il crine,  
Ch'or de i martiri  
De i lor desiri  
Godon beati al fine.

#### **Pastore**

Ma tu gentil cantor s' à tuoi lamenti  
Già festi lagrimar queste campagne,  
Perc'hor al suon della famosa cetra  
Non fai teco gioir le valli e i poggi?  
Sia testimon del core  
Qualche lieta canzon che detti Amore.

#### **Orfeo**

Rosa del Ciel, vita del mondo, e degna  
Prole di lui che l'Universo affrena.  
Sol che'l tutto circondi e'l tutto miri,  
Dagli stellanti giri,  
Dimmi, vedestù mai  
Di me più lieto e fortunato amante?  
Fù ben felice il giorno,  
Mio ben, che pria ti vidi,  
E più felice l'ora Che per te sospirai,  
Poich'al mio sospirar tu sospirasti:  
Felicissimo il punto  
Che la candida mano,  
Pegno di pura fede à me porgesti.

Se tanti Cori havessi  
Quant' occh'hà il Ciel eterno, e quante chiome  
Han questi Colli ameni il verde maggio,  
Tutti colmi sarieno e traboccanti  
Di quel piacer ch'oggi mi fà contento.

#### **Euridice**

Io non dirò qual sia  
Nel tuo gioire Orfeo la gioia mia,  
Che non hò meco il core,  
Ma teco stassi in compagnia d'Amore;  
Chiedilo dunque a lui, s'intender brami  
Quanto lieta gioisca, e quanto t'ami.

#### **Choro**

Lasciate i monti,  
Lasciate i fonti,  
Ninfe vezzos'e liete,  
E in questi prati  
ai balli usati  
Vago il bel piè rendete.

Qui miri il sole  
Vostre carole,  
Più vaghe assai di quelle,  
Ond' à la Luna,  
La notte bruna,  
Danzano in Ciel le stelle.

#### **Choro**

Vieni, Imeneo, deh, vieni,  
E la tua face ardente  
Sia quasi un sol nascente  
Ch'apporti a questi amanti i di sereni,  
E lunge homai disgombre  
Degli affanni e del duol gli orrori e l'ombre.

Then with fine flowers  
Be ready to honour  
These lovers' heads,  
That after suffering  
They may happily  
Enjoy their desires at last.

#### **Shepherd**

But you, gentle singer, whose laments  
Once made these fields weep,  
Why not now, to the sound of your famous lyre,  
Make the valleys and hills rejoice?  
Let the witness of your heart be  
Some happy song inspired by Love.

#### **Orfeo**

Rose of heaven, life of the world, and worthy  
Heir of him who holds the Universe in sway:  
O Sun, who encircles all and sees all  
From your starry orbits,  
Tell me, have you ever seen  
A happier and more fortunate lover than I?  
So happy was the day,  
My love, when first I saw you,  
And happier the hour When I sighed for you,  
Because at my sighs you sighed:  
Happiest the moment  
When your white hand,  
Pledge of pure faith, you gave to me.

If I had as many Hearts  
As eternal Heaven has eyes and as these  
Lovely Hills in green May have leaves,  
They would all be brimming and overflowing  
With that pleasure that today makes me content.

#### **Euridice**

I will not say that  
In your joy, Orfeo, is my joy,  
For no longer do I possess my own heart.  
It is with you in the company of Love;  
Ask of it, then, if you want to know  
How happily it rejoices, and how much it loves you.

#### **Chorus**

Leave the mountains,  
Leave the fountains,  
Lovely and joyful Nymphs.  
And in these meadows  
To the traditional dances  
Let your fair feet rejoice.

Here the sun beholds  
Your dancing,  
More lovely than  
When, for the moon  
In the dark night,  
The stars themselves dance in Heaven.

#### **Chorus**

Come, Hymen, do come,  
And may your ardent torch  
Be like a rising sun  
That brings these lovers peaceful days  
And forever banish  
The horrors and shadows of torments and grief.

**Pastore**

Ma s' il nostro gioir dal Ciel deriva  
 Com'è dal Ciel ciò che qua giù n'incontra,  
 Giusto è ben che devoti Gli  
 offriam incensi e voti.  
 Dunque al Tempio ciascun rivolga i passi  
 A pregar lui nella cui destra è il Mondo,  
 Che lungamente il nostro ben conservi.

**Choro**

Alcun non sia che disperato in preda  
 Si doni al duol, benchè talhor n'assaglia  
 Possente sì che nostra vita inforsa.  
 Che poiche nembo rio gravido il seno  
 D'atra tempesta inorridito hà il Mondo,  
 Dispiega il Sol più chiaro i rai lucenti.

E dopò l'aspro gel del Verno ignudo  
 Veste di fior la Primavera i campi.  
 Ecco ORFEO, cui pur dianzi  
 Furon cibo i sospir, bevanda il pianto.  
 Oggi felice è tanto  
 Che nulla è più che da bramar gli avanzi.

**Shepherd**

But if our joy derives from Heaven,  
 As from Heaven comes all that happens down here,  
 It is right and fair that we should devoutly  
 Offer incense and prayers.  
 So to the Temple let us turn our steps  
 To pray to him in whose right hand is the World,  
 That he may long keep us well.

**Chorus**

Let none be victim of despair  
 Or sorrow, though they assail us  
 In strength and threaten our life.  
 For, after the sudden storm and great flood  
 At the heart of a black tempest that has terrified the World,  
 The Sun more brightly displays its luminous rays.

And after the harsh frost of naked Winter  
 Spring clothes the meadows with flowers.  
 Here is Orfeo, for whom  
 Sighs had been food, and the tears drink.  
 Today he is so happy  
 That there is nothing more for him to wish for.

*Orfeo – Act V***Orfeo**

Padre cortese, al maggior uopo arrivi,  
 Ch'a disperato fine  
 Con estremo dolore  
 M'avean condotto già sdegno ed Amore.  
 Eccomi dunque attento a tue ragioni,  
 Celeste padre; hor ciò che vuoi m'imponi.

**Apollo**

Troppo, troppo gioisti  
 Di tua lieta ventura;  
 Hor troppo piagni  
 Tua sorte acerba e dura.  
 Ancor non sai  
 Come nulla qua giù diletta e dura?  
 Dunque se goder brami immortal vita,  
 Vientene meco al Ciel, ch'a se t'invita.

**Orfeo**

Si non vedrò più mai  
 De l'amata EURIDICE i dolci rai?

**Apollo**

Nel sole e nelle stelle  
 Vagheggerai le sue sembianze belle

**Orfeo**

Ben di cotanto Padre sarei non degno figlio  
 Se non seguisci il tuo fedel consiglio

**Orfeo**

Kind father, you come when I am in need,  
 When to a desperate end  
 With extreme grief  
 Anger and Love has already brought me.  
 Here I am then, attentive to your counsels,  
 Heavenly father, now command me as you want.

**Apollo**

Too much, too much did you rejoice  
 In your happy fate,  
 Now too much do you weep  
 At your bitter, hard fortune.  
 Do you still not know  
 How nothing that delights down here will last?  
 Therefore, if you want to enjoy immortal life,  
 Come with me to Heaven, which invites you.

**Orfeo**

Shall I never again see  
 The sweet eyes of my beloved EURIDICE?

**Apollo**

In the sun and in the stars  
 You shall gaze at her fair image.

**Orfeo**

Of such a good Father I would not be a worthy son  
 If I did not follow your trustworthy advice.

**Apollo ed Orfeo**

(ascending to Heaven, singing)  
Let us rise, singing, to Heaven,  
Where true virtue  
Has the due reward of delight and peace.

**Coro**

Go, Orfeo, happy at last,  
To enjoy celestial honour  
Where good never lessens,  
Where there was never grief,  
While altars, incenses and prayers  
We offer to you, happy and devoted.

So goes one who does not retreat  
At the call of the eternal light,  
So he obtains grace in heaven  
Who down here has braved Hell  
And he who sows in sorrow  
Reaps the fruit of all grace.

**Apollo and Orfeo**

(ascending to Heaven, singing)  
Let us rise, singing, to Heaven,  
Where true virtue  
Has the due reward of delight and peace.

**Chorus**

Go, Orfeo, happy at last,  
To enjoy celestial honour  
Where good never lessens,  
Where there was never grief,  
While altars, incenses and prayers  
We offer to you, happy and devoted.

So goes one who does not retreat  
At the call of the eternal light,  
So he obtains grace in heaven  
Who down here has braved Hell  
And he who sows in sorrow  
Reaps the fruit of all grace.