

HEINRICH SCHÜTZ - Protestantische Marienvesper

A PROTESTANT VESPERS SERVICE IN HONOR OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

Can or should a musical vespers service dedicated to Mary, the Mother of God, be performed using “Protestant” music? Even after the Reformation, vespers services remained a regular part of the liturgical calendar and special feast days in Protestant regions for centuries. As the Mother of God, Mary also has her place in Protestant theology, and Martin Luther himself, in particular, held her in great veneration. Thus, the Marian feasts with a biblical background—the Annunciation and the Visitation—have always been and remain an integral part of the Protestant liturgical calendar. Hence, the idea of compiling a musical Vespers in honor of the Mother of God from the extensive oeuvre of Heinrich Schütz, in analogy to Claudio Monteverdi’s Marian Vespers, is only logical. The result is a musical-liturgical setting that would have been easily conceivable in Protestant regions in the 17th century and is now intended to gain new relevance in the 21st century. As a distinctive feature of this setting, Schütz’s motets are paired with several from Monteverdi’s Vespers, which not only point to ecumenical compatibility but also reveal the close musical connection between these two great masters of the 17th century.

INSTRUMENTA MUSICA - ERCOLE NISINI

8 singers, 2 violins, viola da braccio, violone, 2 cornets, 3 trombones, organ, harp



Concert program

Heinrich Schütz (Köstritz 1585 - Dresden 1672)

_Eile mich Gott zu erretten SWV 282

_Psalm Der Herr sprach zu meinem Herrn SWV 22

_Concerto: Es steh Gott auf SWV 356

_Psalm: SWV 362 Vom Aufgang der Sonne SWV 362

_Concerto: O quam tu pulchra es, amica mea - Veni de Libano SWV 265-6

_Psalm: Ich freu mich des SWV 26

_Credo: Wir glauben all an einen Gott SWV 303

_Psalm: Wo nicht der Herr das Haus bauet SWV 26

_Concerto: Ich bin die Auferstehung und das Leben SWV 324

_Psalm: Jauchzet dem Herren, alle Welt SWV 47

Claudio Monteverdi (Cremona 1567 - Venezia 1643)

_Sonata Sopra Santa Maria

Heinrich Schütz

Hymnus: All Ehr und Lob soll Gottes sein SWV 421

Magnificat: SWV 468

References

St. Marien Weißenfels (Im Rahmen des H. Schütz Musikfest 2022)

Dom St. Marien zu Freiberg

St. Marien Zwickau

Marienkirche Pirna

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INSTRUMENTA MUSICA Frühbarockorchester & Ensemble

INSTRUMENTA MUSICA is dedicated to the performance of instrumental music – ranging from short dance movements and instrumental polyphony to large-scale sacred and secular music from the late Renaissance through to the High Baroque. Founded in 2004 by students of the Institute for Early

Music at the Trossingen University of Music, the creative and sensitive ensemble has since delighted audiences under the direction of Ercole Nisini, both as soloists and in collaboration with renowned vocal ensembles. Instrumenta Musica has a special relationship with the Frauenkirche in Dresden. Since its consecration in 2005, there has been regular collaboration with the Frauenkirche Chamber Choir under the direction of Frauenkirche cantor Matthias Grünert. During this collaboration, joint CDs have been released to date on the SONY and Rondeau labels.

Time and again, Instrumenta Musica has been a valued partner of other renowned vocal ensembles such as Cappella Mariana Prague, the Ensemble Polyharmonique and the Saxon Vocal Ensemble.

There are also joint projects with the director Tom Quaas and the mime artists Bodecker & Neander. At festivals such as the Black Forest Music Festival, the Skálholt Summer Concerts (Iceland), the Heinrich Schütz Music Festival, the Brandenburg Summer Concerts, the WDR Funkhaus Concerts, the Regensburg Early Music Days, the Varazdin Baroque Evenings, the Batzdorf Whitsun Festival or at the Michaelstein Monastery Foundation, the Prague Festivities of Early Music, or at the Silbermann Organ Days in Freiberg, Instrumenta Musica is a welcome guest.

In 2008, the ensemble released its first CD, 'Sacrarum Canticum, Italian sacred and instrumental music by Carlo Filago and Giovanni Battista Riccio', featuring the vocal soloists Constanze Backes, Gerlinde Sämman, Hermann Oswald and Markus Flaig, on the RAMÉE (Outhere) label. In addition, there are a total of nine CD recordings for other labels such as Querstand, Christophorus, Carus, Rondeau, Genuin Classics and SONY. Concert recordings and interviews for WDR, SFR (Switzerland), Radio 3 (Italy) and Deutschlandradio further document the ensemble's activities.

www.instrumentamusica.eu

ERCOLE NISINI's musical world knows no stylistic boundaries. He draws inspiration from his fascination with Renaissance, Baroque and Classical music, with the original sources of music history, and with the theatre, translating these into musical concepts and concert programmes designed to delight the senses of modern audiences.

These projects are brought to life thanks to his ensemble INSTRUMENTA MUSICA, comprising outstanding and creative musicians, sensitive artists and actors, vocal ensembles, his trombone, sheet music and the conductor's podium.

As a soloist and ensemble director, Ercole Nisini has performed at venues including the Frauenkirche in Dresden, the Brandenburg Summer Concerts, the Regensburg Early Music Festival, the Skálholt Summer Concerts (Iceland), the H. Schütz Music Festival, Tabor's Triptych (Czech Republic), WDR Funkhaus Concerts, Fortepianarum Katowice (Poland), Michaelstein Monastery Foundation, Varazdin Baroque Evenings (Croatia) and the Batzdorf Whitsun Festival.

Since 2007, Ercole has devoted himself to performing on period instruments. Concerts across Europe, CD recordings and radio broadcasts with orchestras and ensembles such as La Petite Bande, Orchestre des Champs-Élysées, Hannoversche Hofkapelle, L'Arpa festante, L'Orfeo Barockorchester, Cappella Leopoldina Graz, Capriccio Stravagante, Musica Fiata, Capella de la Torre, Ars Antiqua Austria, Marini Consort Innsbruck, Weser Renaissance Bremen, Cappella Sagittariana, United Continuo Ensemble and Il Girardino Armonico have enriched his experience to date.

His new CD, 'The Trombone Pleasure Garden', featuring music by Jacob van Eyck for recorder, arranged for trombone and period percussion, was released in March 2025 on Genuin Classics.

During the 2024/25 season, Ercole Nisini was Artist in Residence at the Ruth Merkle Foundation at Gut Hohen Luckow. He composed music inspired by and dedicated to the musical angels depicted in the 1707 stucco work. The newly composed music was premiered in May 2025 at a concert with his colleagues from "The Love Songs Project" in Hohen Luckow and recorded on CD. The CD is due to be released in September 2026 on the Genuin label.

www.ercolesmusic.work

Bilder Mathias Marx - Heinrich Schütz Musikfest

