

A Kalmus Classic Edition

Dietrich

BUXTEHUDE

MISSA BREVIS

FOR FIVE VOICES

CHORAL SCORE

K 06132



The Missa brevis of Dietrich Buxtehude belongs to that species of settings of the mass which are written in "majestatico stylo Praenestini ecclesiastico"; that is to say, in that Palestrina style, which Heinrich Schütz taught to his pupils, particularly Chr. Bernhard and Joh. Theile, as the ideal of church music "juxta veterum contrapuncti stylum", in contrast to the new concert music of his time. They represent a milestone on the path of musical history, uniting the Masses of Michael Praetorius and Heinrich Schütz with the short masses of Joh. Seb. Bach; a "Palestrina-Renaissance" from North-German Protestant soil at the time of the beginnings of pietism and union theology, when Spener published his "Pia desideria" and Leibniz devised his courageous plan for a union of the churches.

The work is preserved in parts in the University Library at Upsala, and it is here published for the first time based on the original. In so doing, any interference with the original (published in the Complete Edition of Buxtehude's Works, Ugrino-Verlag, Hamburg) has been avoided and only a realization of the thorough-bass and an arrangement of the parts conforming with the liturgical text is given. All other interpretation is left to the performer of the work, since it can only be brought to life again if its great arched phrases and broad sonorities are imbued with that transcendental force characteristic of the spirit of baroque music, and which speaks in the organ works and cantatas of the great Lübeck master.

Corresponding to the performing practice of the period, these masses may be performed with or without the thorough-bass as well as with or without instruments reinforcing the voice parts. Contrary to the original custom of the strongest possible combination of vocalists and instrumentalists, it is usual today to perform such works a cappella, which however is in no way detrimental to the artistic and historic value of these master works from the period of the choicest flowers of German church music.

DIETRICH BUXTEHUDE / MISSA BREVIS

SOPRAN I Ky - - ri - e e - le - - - -

SOPRAN II Ky - - ri - e e - le - - - i - son, e - le - - i - -

ALT Ky - ri - e e - le - - - i - son, e - le - - i - son, e - le - i -

TENOR Ky - - ri - e e -

BASS

ORGEL (Generalbaß)

6 3 2 6

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