

# Evening Service in D minor "For Four Means"

**William Child**  
(1606-97)

*Scoring*

Verses ~ 4 Means (4 upper voices)

Chorus ~ MMCTB (SSATB)

Organ

Edited by Geoffrey Webber  
(2021)

# Evening Service for 4 Means

William Child  
ed. Geoffrey Webber

## Magnificat

### Verse 4 Means

5

M1  
M2  
M3  
M4  
Organ

My soul doth mag - ni -

#6 6 6 4 #

10

fy the Lord: and my spi - rit hath re - joi - ceth in

fy the Lord: and my sp'rit hath re - joi - ceth in

fy the Lord: and my sp'rit hath re - joi - ceth in

fy the Lord: and my sp'rit hath re - joi - ceth in

15

God my Sa - - - vi - our. For he hath re - gar - ded:

God my Sa - - - vi - our. For he hath re - gar - ded:

God my Sa - vi - our. For he hath re - gar - ded:

God my Sa - - - vi - our. For he hath re - gar - ded:

the low - li - ness of his hand - maid - en. For be -

the low - li - ness of his hand - - - maid - en. For be -

the low - li - ness of his hand - - - maid - en. For be -

the low - li - ness of his hand - - - maid - en. For be -

hold from hence - forth all ge - ne - ra - ti - ons shall call me bles - - - sed.

hold from hence - forth all ge - ne - ra - ti - ons shall call me bles - - - sed.

hold from hence - forth shall call me bles - - - sed.

hold from hence - forth shall call me bles - - - sed.

Chorus MMCfTB

M1 For he that is migh - ty hath mag - - - ni - fi - - ed me: and ho - ly is his name.

M2 For he that is migh - ty hath mag - hi - fied me: and ho - ly is his name.

Ct For he that is migh - ty hath mag - - - ni - fied me: and ho - ly is his name.

T For he that is migh - ty hath mag - ni - fi - - ed me: and ho - ly is his name.

B For he that is migh - ty hath mag - ni - fi - - ed me: and ho - ly is his name.

Verse 4 Means

35

M1 And his mer - cy is on them that fear him: through - out all ge - ne - ra - ti - ons.

M2 And his mer - cy is on them that fear him: through - out all ge - ne - ra - ti - ons.

M3 And his mer - cy is on them that fear him: through - out all ge - ne - ra - ti - ons.

M4 And his mer - cy is on them that fear him: through - out all ge - ne - ra - ti - ons.

40 Slow

He hath shew - ed strength with his arm: he hath scat - ter - red the proud, the proud in

He hath shew - ed strength with his arm: he hath scat - ter - red the proud,

He hath shew - ed strength with his arm: he hath scat - ter - red the

He hath shew - ed strength with his arm: he hath scat - ter -

45

the i - ma - gi - na - ti - on of their hearts, in the i - ma - gi - na - ti - on of their hearts.

in the i - ma - gi - na - ti - on in the i - ma - gi - na - ti - on of their hearts.

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

ed the proud in the i - ma - gi - na - ti - on, in the i - ma - gi - na - ti - on of their hearts.

He hath put down the mighty from their seat:  
 He hath put down the mighty from their seat:  
 He hath put down the mighty from their seat:  
 He hath put down the mighty from their seat:  
 He hath put down the mighty from their seat:

and hath ex - al - ted the hum - ble and meek.  
 and hath ex - al - ted the hum - - ble and meek.  
 and hath ex - al - ted the hum - - ble and meek.  
 and hath ex - al - ted the hum - - - - ble and meek.  
 and hath ex - al - ted the hum - - - - ble and meek.

Chorus MMCTB

55

M1 He hath fil - led the hun - gry with good things: and the  
 M2 He hath fil - led the hun - gry with good things: and the  
 Ct He hath fil - led the hun - - gry with good things: and the  
 T He hath fil - led the hun - gry with good things: and the  
 B He hath fil - led the hun - gry with good things: and the

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

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

rich he hath sent emp - ty a - # - - - way.

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

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

Verse 4 Means

He re - mem - b'ring his mer - cy hath hol - pen his ser - vant Is - ra - el:

He re - mem - b'ring his mer - cy hath hol - pen his ser - vant Is - ra - el:

He re - mem - b'ring his mer - cy hath hol - pen his ser - vant Is - ra - el:

He re - mem - b'ring his mer - cy hath hol - pen his ser - vant Is - ra - el:

70

as he pro - mis - ed to our fore - fa - thers, A - bra - ham and his seed for e -

as he pro - mis - ed to our fore - fa - thers, A - bra - ham and his seed for e -

as he pro - mis - ed to our fore - fa - thers, A - bra - ham and his seed for e -

as he pro - mi - sed to our fore - fa - thers, A - bra - ham and his seed for e -

75

ver, A - bra - ham and his seed for e - - - ver.

ver, A - bra - ham and his seed for e - - - ver.

ver, A - bra - ham and his seed for e - - - ver.

ver, A - bra - ham and his seed for e - - - ver.

Chorus MMCtTB

80

M1  
Glo - ry be to the Fa - - - ther, and to the Son, and to the Ho - ly Ghost;

M2  
Glo - ry be to the Fa - - - ther, and to the Son, and to the Ho - ly Ghost;

Ct  
Glo - ry be to the Fa - - - ther, and to the Son, and to the Ho - ly Ghost;

T  
Glo - ry be to the Fa - - - ther, and to the Son, and to the Ho - ly Ghost;

B  
Glo - ry be to the Fa - - - ther, and to the Son, and to the Ho - ly Ghost;

As it was in the be - gin - ning, is now, and e - ver shall

As it was in the be - gin - ning, is now, and

As it was in the be - gin - ning, is now, and e - ver shall be world

As it was in the be - gin - ning, and is now, and e - ver shall be world

As it was in the be - gin - ning, is now, and e - ver shall be world

be world with - out end. A - - - - men.

e - ver shall be world with - out end. A - - - - men.

with - out end, with - out end. A - - - - men.

with - out end, world with - out end. A - - - - men.

with - out end, world with - out end. A - - - - men.



# Nunc dimittis

## Verse 4 Means

95

M1 Lord, now let-test thou thy ser-vant de-part in

M2 Lord, now let-test thou thy ser-vant de-part in

M3 Lord, now let-test thou thy ser-vant de-part in

M4 Lord, now let-test thou thy ser-vant de-part in

peace: ac-cord-ing to thy word.

#6 6

100

o = o

105

For mine eyes have seen thy sal-va-ti-on:

For mine eyes have seen thy sal-va-ti-on:

For mine eyes have seen thy sal-va-ti-on:

For mine eyes have seen thy sal-va-ti-on:

## Chorus MMCtTB

110

M1 which thou hast pre-par-ed be-fore the face of all peo-ple.

M2 which thou hast pre-par-ed be-fore the face of all peo-ple.

Ct which thou hast pre-par-ed be-fore the face of all peo-ple.

T which thou hast pre-par-ed be-fore the face of all peo-ple.

B which thou hast pre-par-ed be-fore the face of all peo-ple.

9 Verse 4 Means

115

M1 To be a light to ligh - ten the Gen - tiles: and to

M2 To be a light to ligh - ten the Gen - tiles: and to

M3 To be a light to ligh - ten the Gen - tiles: and to

M4 To be a light to ligh - ten the Gen - tiles: and to

120

be the glo - ry of thy peo - ple Is - ra - - el.

be the glo - ry of thy peo - ple Is - - - ra - el.

be the glo - ry of thy peo - ple Is - ra - - - el.

be the glo - ry of thy peo - ple Is - - - ra - el.

Chorus MMCtTB

125 130

M1 Glo - ry be to the Fa - ther, and to the Son, and to the Ho - ly Ghost.

M2 Glo - ry be to the Fa - ther, and to the Son, and to the Ho - ly Ghost.

Ct Glo - ry be to the Fa - ther, and to the Son, and to the Ho - ly Ghost.

T Glo - ry be to the Fa - ther, and to the Son, and to the Ho - ly Ghost.

B Glo - ry be to the Fa - ther, and to the Son, and to the Ho - ly Ghost.

Verse 4 Means

M1 As it was in the be - gin - ning, and is now,

M2 As it was in the be - gin - ning, and is now,

M3 As it was in the be - gin - ning, and is now,

M4 As it was in the be - gin - ning, and is now,

Chorus MMCtTB

135

M1 and e - ver shall be world with - out end, world with - out end. A - - - men.

M2 and e - ver shall be world with - out end, world with - out end. A - - - men.

Ct and e - ver shall be world with - out end, world with - out end. A - - - men.

T and e - ver shall be world with - out end, world with - out end. A - - - men.

B and e - ver shall be world with - out end, world with - out end. A - - - men.

Opening of the Nunc dimittis in Cambridge, Fitzwilliam Museum, MS 117:

M1 Lord, now lett - est thou thy ser - vant de - part in peace: ac - cor - ding to thy word. For

M2 Lord, now lett - est thou thy ser - vant de - part in peace: ac - cor - ding to thy word. For

M3 Lord, now lett - est thou thy ser - vant de - part in peace: ac - cor - ding to thy word. For

M4 Lord, now lett - est thou thy ser - vant de - part in peace: ac - cor - ding to thy word. For

## Evening Service for Four Means, William Child

William Child wrote many service settings during his long tenure as Master of the Choristers at St George's Chapel, Windsor during the seventeenth century. Several appear to have been composed during the first decade after the Restoration of the Monarchy in 1660, including his Service "for four means". Child had a notably creative attitude towards vocal scoring. His output also includes an eight-part Communion Service and an anthem for 3 bass soloists, *The earth is the Lord's*, but his most celebrated novelty is the Service for four means. The term 'mean', in Latin 'medius', referred to the top part of the regular choral texture, sung by boys. However, the vocal ranges of the four parts composed by Child are in reality two at the normal mean pitch, and two in the countertenor range, i.e. the part normally sung by men. The verses could thus be performed by two means and two countertenors, so why Child chose to label them as four means remains something of a mystery, though the title seems to imply that for this piece only, two boys with low ranges, or perhaps changing voices, were unusually called upon to sing in the countertenor range.

Only one complete source of the vocal parts survives, located in the extensive collection MS 117 in the Fitzwilliam Museum, Cambridge, copied at St George's Chapel, Windsor mostly before 1683, and which contains a total of 12 service settings by Child. In addition there is an organ score of the work amongst the manuscripts at neighbouring Eton College, and a few individual parts survive amongst partbooks at the Cathedrals of Gloucester and Worcester, all dating from the late seventeenth or early eighteenth centuries. Although the Fitzwilliam source has no organ part, rests are indicated at the start of the Magnificat before the voices begin. However, the Eton organ part (MS 299/i) contains a short introduction for both the Magnificat and Nunc dimittis, written as a bass line with figures. At the start of the Nunc dimittis the Fitzwilliam reading opens in duple time, whereas the Eton organ part as well as the Gloucester parts (MSS 106-7, dating from c.1675) begin in triple time, though with very similar notes. One possible interpretation of this is that the start of the Nunc dimittis was originally composed in triple time, so that the Magnificat and Nunc dimittis began in the same manner as was typical in many service settings of the period, but that a later performance tradition arose (though still within Child's lifetime) of beginning the Nunc dimittis with a slower minim pulse in duple time (conforming to the normal sesquialtera proportional relationship), leading to a greater amount of melodic decoration. Both openings are given in this edition, so performers can choose which one to adopt. (If the Fitzwilliam reading is followed, the organ introduction should be omitted, or an alternative in duple time provided.) There is also another section of the piece which survives in both duple and triple versions: in the passage 'He remembering his mercy...' the Fitzwilliam score maintains the duple time signature through from the previous chorus to 'as he promised', despite the natural grouping of the music being in three at the opening of the verse section. The Eton score again chooses triple time at this point, moving back to duple time for 'as he promised' where the natural grouping reverts to duple patterns.

This edition is inevitably based mainly on the vocally complete Fitzwilliam source, but incorporates the organ introductions and all the triple-time sections as found in the Eton organ book. The vocal parts in bars 62-8 and at the start of the Nunc dimittis (bars 95-103) are thus conjectural based on the skeleton organ part in the Eton source as well as the Fitzwilliam source. The organ parts following the introductions are editorial reductions of the vocal parts. The slurring in the Fitzwilliam MS follows the placement of syllables, and has been completed editorially without comment. Proportional tempo relationships have been suggested between the duple (cut-C) and triple (cut-C3) sections, though the inconsistent notation between the sources in this respect casts some doubt on this interpretation. Editorial accidentals are shown in brackets.

Thanks are due to Keri Dexter for allowing me to consult his transcriptions of the Eton and Gloucester sources. For more information on music at St George's Chapel, Windsor, and Eton College in this period see Keri Dexter, *A Good Quire of Voices. The Provision of Choral Music at St. George's Chapel, Windsor Castle and Eton College, c.1640-1733* (Ashgate, 2002), and on performance practice, see *The Restoration Anthem*, 2 vols, ed. Keri Dexter and Geoffrey Webber (Church Music Society / OUP, 2003 & 2006).

### Commentary

Bar 21 M1 minim+minim rest. Bars 23-4 M3 & M4 stop at end of bar 23 (text: 'henceforth'); this version follows the implication of the organ bass note in the Eton source at the start of b. 24. Bar 33 M1 # from Eton. Bar 40 'Slow' in Eton source.

Geoffrey Webber  
Cambridge, January 2021