

Asperges me, Domine

George de La Hèle (1547–1586)

Plantin, *Octo missae quinque, sex et septem vocum* [Antwerp, 1578]

'In aspersione aquæ benedictæ'

SUPERIUS
[I & II]

ALTUS

TENOR
[PRIMUS]

TENOR
SECUNDUS

BASIS

A - sper - ges me, -

Do - - -

Do - - - mi - ne,

Do - - -

Do - - -

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[mi - - - ne, - - - Do] -

Do - - - mi - ne, - - - Do - - - mi - ne,

Do - - - mi - ne, Do -

- - - mi - ne, Do - - - mi - ne,

- - - mi - ne, Do - - - mi - ne,

8

- - - mi - ne, hys - so -

hys - so - po, et mun - da - bor, hys - so - po,

- mi - ne, hys - so - po, et mun - da - - - bor, et

Do - mi - ne, hys - so - po, hys - so - po, et mun - da -

hys - so - po, et mun - da - bor, hys - so - po, et mun -

28

su - per ni - vem, et
 - per, et su - per ni - vem
 ni - vem de - al - ba - bor, et su - per ni - vem de al -
 - bis me, et su - per ni - vem
 ba - bor, et su - per ni - vem

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su - per ni - vem de - al - ba - bor.
 vem de - al - ba - bor.
 ba - bor, de - al - ba - bor.
 de al - ba - bor.
 vem de - al - ba - bor.

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SUPERIUS PRIMUS

SUPERIUS SECUNDUS

Se - cun-dum ma - gnam mi -
 Se - cun-dum ma - gnam
 Se - cun-dum ma - gnam, se - cun-dum ma -
 Se - cun-dum ma -
 Mi - se - re-re me - i, De - us, Se - cun-dum ma - gnam, se - cun-dum ma -
 Se - cun-dum ma -

40

se - ri - cor - di - am tu - am,

mi - se - ri - cor - di - am tu - am, mi - se - ri -

gnam mi - se - ri - cor - di - am tu - - - am, mi - se - ri - cor - di -

gnam mi - se - ri - cor - di - am tu - am, mi - se - ri - cor -

gnam mi - se - ri - cor - di -

gnam mi - se - ri - cor - di -

45

mi - se - ri - cor - di - am tu - am.

cor - - - di - am tu - am.

am tu - - - am.

- di - am tu - am.

am tu - am. Glo - ri - a Pa - tri, et Fi - li - o,

am tu - am, tu - - am.

48

Si - cut e - rat, si - cut e -

Si - - cut e -

Si - cut e - rat, si - cut e -

Si - cut e - rat, si - cut e -

et Spi - ri - tu - i San - cto. Si - - cut e -

Si - cut e - rat

51

rat in prin - ci - pi - o, et nunc, et sem -

- rat in prin - ci - pi - o, et nunc, et

rat in prin - ci - pi - o, et nunc, et sem - per, et nunc,

rat in prin - ci - pi - o, et nunc, et sem - per,

rat in prin - ci - pi - o, et nunc, et sem - per, et nunc, et

in prin - ci - pi - o, et nunc, et sem - per,

56

per. Et in sae - cu -

sem - per, et nunc, et sem - per. Et in sae - cu -

et sem - per. Et in sae - cu -

et nunc, et sem - per. Et in sae - cu - la,

sem - per. Et in sae - cu - la,

et nunc, et sem - per. Et in sae - cu - la,

62

la sae - cu - lo - rum, A - men,

la, et in sae - cu - la sae - cu - lo - rum, A - men,

la sae - cu - lo - rum, A - men,

et in sae - cu - la sae - cu - lo - rum, A - men,

et in sae - cu - la sae -

et in sae - cu - la sae -

67

sae - cu - lo - rum. A - - - men.

sae - cu - lo - rum. A - - - men.

sae - cu - lo - rum. A - - - men.

sae - cu - lo - rum. A - men, A - - - - - men.

- cu - lo - - - - rum. A - men.

- - - cu - lo - rum. A - men, A - - - - - men.

[*Asperges me ... dealbabor ut supra*]

Aspérgetes me, Dómine, hyssópo, et mundábor:
lavábis me, et super nivem dealbábor.

Miserére me, Deus,
secúndum magnam misericórdiam tuam.

Glória Patri ...

[Aspérgetes me ...]

*Purge me, O Lord, with hyssop, and I shall be clean:
wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.*

*Have mercy upon me, O God,
after thy great goodness.*

Glory be to the Father ...

[*Purge me ...*]

from Ps. 50 (Vulgate)

(Antiphon for the Asperision of Holy Water at Mass on Sunday, from Trinity Sunday to Palm Sunday)

Born in Antwerp in 1547, George de La Hèle trained as a chorister at Antwerp cathedral before moving to Madrid in 1560 to sing in the royal chapel of Philip II, under the musical direction of Pierre de Manchicourt. Returning to the Low Countries in the 1570s for university study and subsequent appointments as *maestro di capilla* at Sint-Romboutskathedraal in Mechelen and Notre-Dame Cathedral in Tournai, La Hèle was appointed in 1580 to succeed Geert van Turnhout as *maestro di capilla* at the royal chapel in Madrid. He remained in that post until his death in August 1586, whereupon he was succeeded by Philippe Rogier (the last in a line of Franco-Flemish incumbents stretching back to Marbrianus de Orto in 1512). Manuscripts containing much of La Hèle's compositional output were destroyed in a fire at the Palacio Real on Christmas Eve 1734, which may go some way to explaining his apparent obscurity in comparison to the more famous bearers of that important royal office. Only eleven works survive, all but two of which are contained in a book of parody masses (on motets by Josquin, Lassus, de Rore and Crecquillon) published by Christophe Plantin in 1578, which opens with this setting of the Asperges.

Editorial Notes:

This edition is set at the original notated pitch. Editorial accidentals are indicated above the note. Original note values are retained: thus, consistent with 16th-century convention, the C mensuration sign and its modern-equivalent C time signature signify a semibreve tactus. Bar lines are added only to aid reading and direction: 'strong' and 'weak' beats implied by their position should never take precedence over phrasing or word stress. Ligatures and coloration in the source are acknowledged with overarching square brackets and open 'corner' brackets respectively. The printed source is remarkably clear with regard to word underlay: re-iteration of text implied by an 'i' marking is indicated in *italic*. The only editorial adjustment to word underlay is the suggested reiteration of the opening word in the *Superius* part, indicated in [square brackets].

The source includes the chant incipits in the *Tenor Secundus* part, as presented here. The ending of the opening chant incipit differs from the setting in the *Graduale Romanum*, and may be from an earlier form of the chant: the additional note is parenthesized for omission in liturgical performance, if preferred. For the same purpose, an optional instruction to repeat the antiphon — not present in the source — is also added.