## Magnificat and Nunc Dimittis 'in Medio Chori'

Edited by Jason Smart
William Mundy (c.1529-1591)
Magnificat




my
Sa - vi-our,
in God
my
$\mathrm{Sa}-\quad$ vi-our.
20




his hand - maid - en,
of his hand
maid
en.
E.): $\frac{1}{6}$





















Fa - ther, and to the Son, and to the Ho - ly

$\qquad$
Ghost, and
ther, and to the Son, and to the Ho - ly Ghost, and to ..... the_
Fa - ther, and to the Son, and to the

$\qquad$
Son, and ..... to the
Fa - ther, and to the and to the Ho - ly Ghost, and to the
Fa - ther, and to the Son, and to the

Ho - ly Ghost, the




## Nunc dimittis











## Editorial Conventions

The nomenclature of the voice-parts follows the Tudor convention.
The original clef, staff signature, mensuration symbol and first note of each part are shown on the prefatory staves. Editorial accidentals are placed above the notes concerned and remain operative throughout the bar.
The sign $\longrightarrow$ denotes a ligature.
Spelling of the text has been modernised.
Text repetition signs in the underlay have been expanded tacitly, for reasons explained below in the Notes on the Readings of the Source.
Underlay between square brackets is entirely editorial.

## Source

Cambridge, Peterhouse MSS 33, 34, 38, 39 and 47-49 (the 'Former Set' of Caroline Partbooks, c.1625-40).

| 47 | Medius Decani | (Tr) | f. 38 | header on f .38 : below header: at end of Nunc: | $M^{\mathrm{r}}$ mundeis magnificat in medio chory: medius Decani this $\mathrm{m}^{\mathrm{r}}$ mundy |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 34 | Medius Cantoris | (M) | f. 36 | header on f.36: at end of Magnificat: | Magnificat in medio chori medius Cantoris $\mathrm{M}^{\mathrm{r}}$ Mundy |
| 35 | Contratenor Decani I | $\begin{aligned} & (\mathrm{Ct} 2) \\ & (\mathrm{Ct} 1 \mathrm{~d}) \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & \text { ff. } 52 \\ & \text { f. } 53 \end{aligned}$ | header for Ct 2 : header for Ct 1 : | $\mathrm{M}^{\mathrm{r}}$ Mundis Service in medio Chori <br> Pri: Con Deca: Magnificat and Nunc dimittis, Mundy in medio Chori. |
| 48 | Contratenor Decani II | - | - |  |  |
| 37 | Contratenor Cantoris I | (Ct1c) | f. 37 | header: <br> above header: | Pri: Con. Can: / Magnificat \& Nunc dimittis. 9 partes in medio Chori $\mathrm{M}^{\mathrm{r}}$ Mundie this |
| 45 | Bassus Decani | (Bd) | f. 41 | header on f.41: <br> header on f.42: | $\mathrm{M}^{\mathrm{r}}$ William Mundies: Magnificat:- Medio Co The Nunc dimittis:-• |
| 36 | Bassus Cantoris | (Bc) | f. 40 | header: at end of Nunc: | Bassus Cantoris Magnificatt of $\mathrm{m}^{\mathrm{r}}$ mundys: in medio Chori: $\mathrm{m}^{\mathrm{r}}$ mundye in medio Chori: |

## Notes on the Readings of the Source

In MSS 47, 34, 37, 45 and 36 the underlay is mostly provided as fully as one would expect, underlay repetition signs being used only when text already sung is to be repeated. In MS 35, however, it is far more abbreviated and the practice of providing only cues with repetition signs is much more generally applied, even at the first appearance of a phrase, Ct1d, for example, beginning: 'My soule $\because \cdot$ '. Nevertheless, in all parts the intended underlay is rarely ambiguous because of the liberal provision of slurs. The underlay as preserved is frequently gauche and occasional variants between the different copies of the $\mathrm{Ct1}$ and B parts raise the suspicion that the music was transmitted with the words only sketchily indicated. The underlay in such a late source is unlikely to be authoritative and there is nothing to be gained from recording its diplomatic appearance, either in the score, or below, although words provided editorially without any manuscript authority are enclosed between square brackets.

The text set by Mundy has two variants that had been rejected from the books of common prayer by 1552 . 'And my spirit rejoiceth' is found in the Taverner bible of 1539 as well as some earlier bibles and primers. 'To our fathers' survived into the 1549 prayer book, but became 'to our forefathers' in the second prayer book of 1552 . It is possible that a third early variant has been expunged: the rhythm of the point of imitation for 'and his seed for ever' is better suited to the common early version: 'and to his seed for ever'.
In the score, when the Ct 1 and B parts divide the reading of the decani partbook is placed above the cantoris partbook in the modern way. This edition does not distinguish the two sides since it is by no means certain that Mundy did so. The music is not antiphonal; rather the contrast is between groups of high and low voices. The Treble and Mean parts are not divided by sides. Instead, when they divide it is into gimels, both parts being entered onto the same page of their respective partbooks. The term 'in medio chori' ('in the middle of the choir') as a description of polyphony is of late date and uncertain meaning. It is improbable that it refers to a group of singers standing in mid-choir. Rather it may refer to the style of composition, a style that had its roots in large-scale, pre-Reformation polyphony, written into a choirbook and sung at a lectern in mid-quire, which contrasted sections for small groups of voices with passages for the full choir.
In the notes below, each reference to a bar or group of bars is separated by an oblique stroke. Within these references multiple readings in the same voice are separated by commas and readings in different voices by semicolons. The order within each entry is: 1) bar number; 2) voice; 3) reading of the source. For extended references subsequent bar numbers are in brackets. Pitches are in capital letters, preceded by a number where necessary, e.g. ${ }^{1} \mathrm{C}=$ first note C in the bar. Note values are abbreviated in italics. The sign + denotes a tie.

## Accidentals and Staff Signatures

## Magnificat

34 Ct 1 d \# for ${ }^{1} \mathrm{C} / 37 \mathrm{Bc} b$ for ${ }^{1} \mathrm{~B} / 44 \mathrm{Bc}$ no \# for $\mathrm{F} / 57 \mathrm{Ct} 2$ new line without staff signature begins with G (error?) / 64 M 2 no $b$ for $\mathrm{B} / 82 \mathrm{Ct} 2$ new line with staff signature $b$ for B begins with $\mathrm{E} / 86 \mathrm{Bd} \mathrm{Bc} b$ for ${ }^{1} \mathrm{~B} / 105 \mathrm{Tr} 2$ \# for $\mathrm{G} / 121 \mathrm{M} 1$ no bs for Bs / 144 M1 no \# for F / $152 \mathrm{Ct1d}$ no $\ddagger / 153 \mathrm{Ct1c}$ no \# / 169 Bc no \# for F / 170 Ct 2 \# to G (not F) before F; Bc no \# for ${ }^{1} \mathrm{~F} /$

Nunc dimittis
$52 \mathrm{Bd} \mathrm{Bc} b$ for $\mathrm{B} / 58 \mathrm{Bd} \mathrm{Bc} b$ for $\mathrm{B} / 63 \mathrm{Tr} \#$ for ${ }^{2} \mathrm{C} /$

## Underlay

## Magnificat

$15 \mathrm{Ct} 1 \mathrm{c}^{1} \mathrm{D}$ is $c r \mathrm{D} c r \mathrm{D}$ implying two syllables for spirit /
$17-20 \mathrm{Ct1c}$


69 M 2 generations undivided below $\mathrm{DEFG}^{1} \mathrm{~A} / 77-79 \mathrm{Ct1c}$ slur for $\mathrm{D}+\mathrm{DCA}$, proud the proud ambiguously aligned below BGDF / 82 M hearts below G, (83) of their below BB, (83-84) hearts ambiguously aligned below AG / 114 M2 allocation of -ty $a$ - ambiguous / 133 M1 promi- one note earlier with slur for EC / 140-141 Tr1 -er for ev- one note earlier with slur for $E^{3} D$ /

141 Ct 1 c


A - bra-ham
and his $\qquad$ seed for ev -

150-151 M slurs for CB and GF moving holy one note later /

156 Ct 1 d


Nunc dimittis

53 Ct 1 c


57 Bd slur for CD only; Bc slur present but extent ambiguous /
$59 \mathrm{Ct1c}$


63 Bd slur for CD only / $66 \mathrm{Ct1d}$-men $A$ - below CG /

## Other Readings

## Magnificat

1 Bc no mensuration symbol / 35-36 M AABCBArest entered on a paste-over slip / $42 \mathrm{Ct} 2 \mathrm{C} \# \mathrm{D}$ for CC / $45 \mathrm{Ct1d} \mathrm{~A}$ is C/ $81 \mathrm{Ct1c} \mathrm{AA}$ are $\mathrm{m} \mathrm{m} / 90 \mathrm{M} 1$ mensuration symbol $\$$ before rests / 128 M 2 fermata for A / 126-135 M2 passage from ${ }^{2} \mathrm{~A}$ in 126 to $m$-rest in 135 on paste-over slip / 152-153 $\mathrm{Ct1c} \mathrm{AB}^{2} \mathrm{C}^{2} \mathrm{D}$ are $\mathrm{cr} \mathrm{cr} \mathrm{cr} \mathrm{cr} / 156 \mathrm{Ct} 1 \mathrm{~d} s b \mathrm{~F}$ for dot-mF $\mathrm{cr} \mathrm{F} / 157$ $\mathrm{Ct1d} \mathrm{~A}$ is $d o t-m \mathrm{~A} \operatorname{cr} \mathrm{~A} m \mathrm{~A} / 172 \mathrm{Bd} \mathrm{G}$ is $s b$ only /

## Nunc dimittis

1 M the gimel parts (as noted at bar 10) are both notated from the start of bar 1 even though the first nine bars are in unison; Tr all parts except Bc mensuration symbol $\Phi / 7 \mathrm{Ct1c} m \mathrm{~A}+c r \mathrm{~A} c r \mathrm{~B} c r \mathrm{C} c r \mathrm{~A}$ for $\mathrm{ACB} / 9 \mathrm{M} 1 \mathrm{M} 2 \mathrm{~F}$ is $\mathrm{E} / 15 \mathrm{M} 2$ C is $\mathrm{D} / 62 \mathrm{Ct} 2{ }^{2} \mathrm{G}$ is $\mathrm{A} / 64 \mathrm{Tr} \mathrm{D}$ is $s b$ with ' 2 ' below / 66 Ct 1 c Ct 1 d D is $\mathrm{C} / 68 \mathrm{Bc}$ lower D omitted /

