

Hooked on Polyphony

Volume 2

Motets for four equal voices

Liner Notes

**Motetta di Cipriano de Rore
et aliorum auctorum
quatuor vocum parium.**

Venezia, MDLXIII. Munich, Bayerische Staatsbibliothek, 4 Mus.pr. 194#Beibd.5.

**Motets of Cipriano de Rore
and other authors
for four equal voices.**

Venice: Apud Hieronymum Scottura, 1563.

The *Motets of Cipriano de Rore and other authors for four equal voices* is a special product of the thriving 16th-century music printing industry in Venice. The Venetian government granted privileges to publishers enabling them to gather various popular manuscripts, with or without composers' consent or even knowledge, and publish them in collections—entrepreneurs in action. Girolamo Scotto, one of two major, Venetian music publishers of the day, published *Motetta di Cipriano de Rore et aliorum auctorum quatuor vocum parium*. Cipriano de Rore had published a book of madrigals with Scotto in 1542, who likely had easy access to many of Cipriano's works and chose to lean on this popular composer to anchor this collection.

These motets represent high-Renaissance polyphony by some of the finest composers of the era, setting sacred texts to music for "equal voices." This specification refers generally to the four voices lying in the same basic range. Sacred and secular sixteenth-century compositions with this designation were fairly common, often appearing in printed collections fully dedicated to such pieces, such as this one. Here, some motets use a single text, while others use two complementary texts, the second of which is set in an addendum to the motet called the *secunda pars*, or "second part." In both cases, specific musical motives and phrases set a particular phrase of the text, which may repeat, before both music and text change in a subsequent passage of the motet. When a *secunda pars* is present, it typically begins with completely new thematic material to go with the new text. Then, often, text and music from the related *prima pars* are recapitulated before the motet concludes, a practice that will be refined over the next centuries into standard classical forms.

The motets are recorded here without transposition, except track 22, which is lowered one octave. Bass sackbut is used on all but tracks 7,12,14-17.

Equipment:

- Brad Close tenor sackbut, 2019. Brad Close medium and custom mouthpieces.
- Mike Corrigan F bass sackbut, 2012. Egger mouthpiece.
- AKG C214 microphone into Audient iD14 interface into ProTools running on MacBook Pro platform.

Cover art: Tenor, “Caro mea vere est cibus,” in *Motetta di Cipriano de Rore et aliorum auctorum quatuor vocum parium* (Venice, 1563), 2.

Recorded by Mike Hall, tenor and bass sackbut

Produced by Adam Bregman

Mixed and mastered by Alek Palmersmith

Track list with English translations of the Latin texts

Cipriano de Rore (1516-1565)

1. Caro mea vere est cibus – from John 6:56-59

56 My flesh is meat indeed, and my blood is drink indeed.

57 Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood abides in me, and I in him.

58 As the living Father hath sent me and I live by the Father: so he that eateth me, the same also shall live by me.

Secunda pars: Hic est panis

59 This is the bread that came down from heaven. Not as your fathers did eat manna and are dead. He that eateth this bread shall live forever.

2. Sub tuum praesidium confugimus – from the Marian hymn

We fly to thy patronage, O holy Mother of God;

despise not our prayers in our necessities,

but deliver us from all dangers,

O ever glorious and blessed Virgin.

3. O Crux benedicta

O blessed cross,

which alone was worthy to bear the weight of the world.

Sweet the wood, sweet the nails, bearing sweet weights.

You alone surpass all the wood of cedar,

upon which the salvation of the world hung,

Upon which Christ triumphed

and overcame death forever.

4. Beati omnes qui timent dominum – from Psalm 128

1 Blessed are all they that fear the Lord: and walk in his ways.

2 For thou shalt eat the labors of thine hands: O well is thee, and happy shalt thou be.

3 Thy wife shall be as the fruitful vine: upon the walls of thine house. Thy children like the olive-branches: round about thy table.

Secunda pars: Ecce sic benedicetur

4 Lo, thus shall the man be blessed: that feareth the Lord.

5 The Lord from out of Zion shall so bless thee: that thou shalt see Jerusalem in prosperity all thy life long.

6 Yea, that thou shalt see thy children's children: and peace upon Israel.

5. Stetit Jesus in medio discipulorum – from John 20:22-23

Jesus stood in the midst

of his disciples

and said to them: Peace be with you.

Secunda pars: Haec cum dixisset

And when he had said this, he breathed on them, and saith unto them,

Receive ye the Holy Ghost:

Whosoever sins ye remit, they are remitted unto them;

and whosoever sins ye retain, they are retained.

6. Miserere nostri Deus – from Ecclesiasticus 36:1-4

1 Have mercy upon us, O God of all, and behold us, and shew us the light of thy mercies:

2 And send thy fear upon the nations, that have not sought after thee: that they may know that there is no God beside thee, and that they may shew forth thy wonders.

Secunda pars: Alleua manum tuam

3 Lift up thy hand over the strange nations *and newcomers*, that they may see thy power.

4 For as thou hast been sanctified in us in their sight, so thou shalt be magnified among them in our presence,...

7. Gratias vobis – from Galatians 1:4-5

Grace to you and peace from God our Father

and to our Lord Jesus Christ

who gave himself for our sins

to deliver us from the present evil world

according to the will of God and our father

to whom be glory forever and ever.

Amen.

Secunda pars: Deus pacis – from Hebrews 13:20-21

God of peace who brought back from the dead the great shepherd

in the blood of the eternal testament of our Lord Jesus Christ

it is fitting that we do his will in every good thing

doing in us what pleases him through Jesus Christ to whom is the glory

forever. Amen.

Giaches de Wert (1535-1596)

8. Diligite iusticiam – from Wisdom 1:1-2

Love justice, you that judge the earth.
Think of our Lord in goodness,
and in simplicity of heart seek him:
because he is found of them that tempt him not:
and he appears to them that have faith in him.

Paulus Animuccia (1500-1571)

9. Ave sanctissima

Hail most holy Mary, mother of God, queen of heaven, gate of paradise, ruler of the world.
You are a uniquely pure virgin.
You conceived Jesus without sin.
You bore the creator and savior of the world in whom I do not doubt.
Free us/me from every evil and pray for us sinners/me a sinner.

Giovanni Nasco (ca.1510-1561)

10. Tristis, est anima mea - Matthew 26:37-38, 51, 56

Sorrowful is my soul even unto death.
Stay here, and watch with me.
Now you shall see the mob that will surround me.
You shall take flight, and I shall go to be sacrificed for you.

Secunda pars: Ecce appropinquate
The time draws near, and the Son of Man
shall be delivered into the hands of sinners.

Antonio Barges (ca.1525-1562)

11. O sacrum convivium - 1 Corinthians 11:26 and Romans 8:18

O sacred communion meal, in which Christ takes form for us;
Renewing here the memory of His passion holy.
Minds grow full of charity;
And a glory yet to come unto us is granted.
Alleluia.

12. O inestimabile sacramentum

O mystery beyond measure and love
That you have for us, eternal Father,
Who gave your Son to redeem a slave.

13. Tantum ergo sacramentum

Such a great mystery, then,
let us bow down and adore,
and let the old covenant
give way to the new:
let faith provide for
the weakness of the senses.

To the Father and the Son
let there be praise and jubilation,
salvation, honor,
strength and blessing;
and to the Spirit proceeding from both
let there be equal glory.
Amen.

Costanzo Porta (1529-1601)

14. Salve Regina misericordiae – Marian antiphon
Hail, Holy Queen, Mother of mercy,
[Hail] our life, our sweetness and our hope!
To thee do we cry, poor banished children of Eve,

Secunda pars: Eya ergo advocata nostra
To thee do we send up our sighs,
mourning and weeping in this valley of tears.
Turn, then, most gracious advocate,
thine eyes of mercy toward us,
and after this, our exile,
show unto us the blessed fruit of thy womb, Jesus.
O clement, O loving, O sweet Virgin Mary.

15. Virtute magna reddebant apostoli – from Acts 4:33a and 4:31b
4:33a With great power, the apostles bore witness
to the resurrection of Jesus Christ, our Lord.
Alleluia.

Secunda pars: Repleti quidem
4:31b They were indeed filled with the Holy Spirit
and spoke the word of God with boldness,
bearing witness to the resurrection of Jesus Christ, our Lord.
Alleluia.

16. Preparate corda vestra - 1 Samuel 7:3
Prepare your hearts for the Lord and serve Him only
and He will save you from the hands of your enemies.
Turn to Him with all your hearts
and banish strange gods from your midst...

Gioseffo Zarlino (1517-1590)

17. Lectio prima: Parce mihi Domine – from Job
Spare me, Lord, for my days are nothing.
What is man, that you magnify him?
Or what do you set your heart on?

You visit him early and suddenly you try him.
How long will you not spare me, nor let me go, that I may swallow my saliva?
I have sinned, what shall I do to thee, O guardian of men?
Why have you set me against you, and I have become heavy to myself?
Why do you not take away my sin, and why does he not take away my iniquity?
Behold, now I will sleep in the dust, and if you seek me in the morning, I will not stand.
Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord.

18. Lectio secunda: Taedet animam meam

My soul is weary of my life
let my speech be against me
I will speak in the bitterness of my soul.
I will say to God: Do not condemn me.
tell me why you judge me so.
Does it seem good to you?
if you slander me and oppress me
the work of your hands
and will you help the counsel of the wicked?
Do you have eyes of flesh?
or as a man sees, and you shall see?
Are your days like the days of man?
and your years are like human times
to seek my iniquity
and dost thou search my sin?
And know that I have done nothing impious
since there is no one who can deliver them out of your hand.
Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord.

19. Lectio tertia: Manus tuae Domine

Your hands, Lord, have made me
and they praised me all around
and so suddenly you fall upon me
Please remember that you are made like dirt
and you will bring me back to dust
and you curdled me like cheese
you clothed me with skin and flesh
You bound me with bones and nerves
You have given me life and mercy
and your visit kept my spirit.
Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord.

20. Ecce iam venit plenitudo temporis – from Galatians 4:4-5

Behold, the fullness of time has come
in which God sent his Son into the world
born of a virgin, made under the law
to redeem those who were under the law.

Secunda pars: Propter nimiam charitatem
Because of his excessive charity
God so loved us that he sent his son
in the likeness of sinful flesh
to redeem those who were under the law.

Jachet of Mantua (1483-1559)

21. Nos pueri tibi principi

We, the children, congratulate you, the prince of youth, on your first reign
the year passed successfully
we hope that the same will come to you in the future to a very old age.

Secunda pars: Rogamus Deum

We ask the most excellent God to give you that mind
by which you dedicate us to God and the rest of the people of your domain
so you can rule and be controlled
that you may be celebrated with the surname of the patron of the Church and the father of
the country.

Giovanni Nasco (ca.1510-1561)

22. O salutaris hostia - the penultimate stanza of the hymn *Verbum supernum prodiens*,
composed by St. Thomas Aquinas

O saving victim
who opens the gate of heaven,
hostile wars press on us:
give strength, bring aid.

To the Lord, three in one,
be everlasting glory,
for life without end
he gives us in (his) Kingdom.

Costanzo Porta (1529-1601)

23. Si bona suscepimus - Job 2:10 and Job 1:21

2:10 If we have received good things from the hand of the Lord,
why should we not endure bad things?

1:21 Naked came I out of my mother's womb, and naked shall I return there.
The Lord has given, the Lord has taken away: as it has pleased the Lord, so is it done:
blessed be the name of the Lord.



MIKE HALL teaches trombone/euphonium and brass chamber music at Old Dominion University in Norfolk, VA, USA, and serves as Literature Reviews Editor for the International Trombone Association Journal. He previously served on the faculties of the University of Kansas and Eastern Michigan University. Dr. Hall has performed extensively throughout North and South America, Europe and Asia performing a range of styles and literature with symphony orchestras, wind and chamber ensembles and as featured soloist. He also has an extensive background in commercial music backing entertainers, playing in large and small group jazz settings, and performing in theater and studio recording ensembles. His study of early music performance

practice has led to nine solo recordings: *Arcangelo Corelli Solo Chamber Sonatas, Opus 5*; *J.S. Bach: The Gamba Sonatas*; *Benedetto Marcello Solo Sonatas, Opus 1*, *J.S. Bach: Art of Fugue*, *Johann Ernst Galliard: Six Sonatas*, *J.S. Bach School for Trombone*, *The Perilously Tempered Trombone* and *Hooked on Polyphony: Volume 1: American Counterpoint*. *Music for a New Millennium*, new sonatas for trombone and piano, was released in 2015.



ADAM BREGMAN plays historical trombones from every era and has appeared with such American and European ensembles as Ciaramella (Los Angeles), Oltremontano (Belgium), Piffaro, the Renaissance Band (Philadelphia), the Huelgas Ensemble (Belgium), and Capella Cracoviensis (Poland). As a teacher of early brass and historical performance practice, he has co-directed the Indiana Early Double Reed and Sackbut Workshop since 2013 and has taught live and online classes for the San Francisco Early Music Society since 2017. Adam is a PhD candidate in historical musicology at the University of Southern California and has presented his scholarship, which strives to bridge the gap between theoretical and practical aspects of late Medieval, Renaissance, and early Baroque music, at conferences in North America and Europe. His most recent work includes a

collaboration on a facsimile edition and study of Margaret of Austria's basse danse manuscript (Alamire 2023) and "The Hermaphroditic Nature of the Mi-Fa Complex," a chapter in the collection *Explorations in Music and Esotericism* (University of Rochester Press 2023).