

## Antonio Vivaldi – Stabat Mater (1970)

Written by bluesever

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1. *Stabat Mater*: - *Stabat mater dolorosa* - *Cujus animam gementem* - *O quam tristis et afflicta* - *Quis est homo* - *Quis non posset contristari* - *Pro peccatis suae gentis* - *Eia mater, fons amoris* - *Fac ut ardeat cor meum* - *Amen* Helen Watts (alto) Radio Filharmonisch Orkest Bernard Haitink (conductor) Concertgebouw Amsterdam 07.XI.1970 FM-rebroadcast Radio 4 (NL) 18.II.2008

Vivaldi's setting of the Stabat Mater, RV621 is one of his earliest known surviving sacred works it almost certainly dates from 1711 or 1712 was rediscovered in 1939 and published in 1949. Given the most probable date of its composition it's a bit unlikely that Vivaldi composed it for the Ospedale della Pietà and very likely indeed that he composed it on foot of a visit he made with his father to the Oratorian Church of Santa Maria della Pace in the Lombard city Brescia in 1711.

Vivaldi's setting unlike those of contemporaneous composers consists only of the first ten stanzas in other words his setting conforms to the rules to be observed when the text is used as a hymn at Vespers. It's also a far more sombre setting than those of his contemporaries and with an unusual combination of fast and slow movements.

It's a moving and beautiful piece of music but you can hear throughout it that Vivaldi was still more comfortable with writing for instruments rather than voices the musical motifs within each movement are far more autonomous than you would expect. ---markfromireland, saturdaychorale.com

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