

Heinrich
SCHÜTZ

Two Sacred Pieces

for

8-part Trombone Ensemble

from

Musikalische Exequien

I. Motette

“Herr, wenn ich nur dich habe”

(SWV 280)

II. Canticum Simeonis

“Herr, nun lässest du deinen Diener”

(SWV 281)

Cherry Classics Music

Notes

Heinrich Schütz (1585-1672) wrote the *Musikalische Exequien*, opus 7 (SWV 279-281) for the funeral of Prince Heinrich Posthumus von Reuss (1572-1635). Prince Heinrich's widow and sons commissioned the work upon his death, and provided Schütz with Bible verses as the text, which were also inscribed on the prince's coffin. The last two parts of the *Musikalische Exequien* have been arranged for trombone octet in two different choirs.

- Motet (SWV 280), “Herr, wenn ich nur dich habe” (“Lord, if I have but Thee”), is set for two equal choirs reflecting Schütz's studies with Giovanni Gabrieli from 1609-1612. The declamatory style and imitation between the two choirs emphasizes the conviction of salvation and comfort expressed in the text.

Motette “Herr, wenn ich nur dich habe”

*Herr, wenn ich nur dich habe,
so frage ich nichts nach Himmel und Erden.
Wenn mir gleich Leib und Seele verschmacht',
so bist du doch, Gott,
allezeit meines Herzens Trost und mein Teil.*

Motet “Lord, if I have but Thee”

Lord, if I have but You,
I ask neither for heaven nor earth.
And when my body and soul are dying,
You, God,
are always the comfort of my heart and part of me.

— Psalm 73:25-6

- In Canticum Simeonis (SWV 281), Schütz uses the familiar words of the *Nunc dimittis* (*Herr, nun lässest du deinen Diener*, “Lord, now You let Your servant”) in Chorus I, accompanied by a second, smaller choir singing portions of *Revelations* and the *Wisdom of Solomon*. The second choir, arranged here for two alto trombones and bass trombone, was, as Schütz wrote, “to indicate in some small measure the joy of the disembodied blessed souls in heaven, in the company of the heavenly spirits and holy angels.”¹

Canticum Simeonis

Intonation

Herr, nun lässest du deinen Diener

Choro I

*In Frieden fahren, wie du gesagt hast.
Denn meine Augen haben deinen Heiland gesehen,
welchen du bereitet hast für allen Völkern,
ein Licht, zu erleuchten die Heiden,
und zum Preis deines Volks Israel.*

Choro II: Seraphim I, II und Beata anima

*Selig sind die Toten,
die in dem Herren sterben,
sie ruhen von ihrer Arbeit,
und ihre Werke folgen ihnen nach.
Sie sind in der Hand des Herren,
und keine Qual rühret sie.*

Canticle of the blessed Simeon

Intonation

Lord, now You let Your servant

Chorus I

Go in peace, as You said.
For my eyes have seen Your salvation
which You offered for all people,
a light to enlighten all Gentiles,
and for the glory of Your people Israel.

— Luke 2:29-32

Chorus II: Two Seraphim and the soul

Blessed are the dead
who die in the Lord;
they rest from their labors,
and their works do follow them.
They are in the hand of the Lord,
and no torment touches them.

— Revelation 14:13 and Wisdom of Solomon 3:1

¹ From research by Werner Breig.

Two Sacred Pieces

Full Score

for 8-part Trombone Ensemble

Heinrich Schütz
arr., ed. by Kenneth Biggs

I. Motette "Herr, wenn ich nur dich habe" from *Musikalische Exequien (SWV 280)*

[♩ = 76]

I. Alto Trombone
II. Tenor Trombone
III. Tenor Trombone
IV. Bass Trombone
V. Alto Trombone
VI. Tenor Trombone
VII. Tenor Trombone
VIII. Bass Trombone

5

II. Canticum Simeonis "Herr, nun lässest du deinen Diener" from *Musikalische Exequien* (SWV 281)

Heinrich Schütz
arr./ed. Kenneth Biggs

[Freely] [In tempo ♩ = 60]

I. Tenor Trombone
II. Tenor Trombone
III. Tenor Trombone
IV. Tenor Trombone
V. Bass Trombone
VI. Alto Trombone
VII. Alto Trombone
VIII. Bass Trombone

5

I. Tenor Trombone
II. Tenor Trombone
III. Tenor Trombone
IV. Tenor Trombone
V. Bass Trombone
VI. Alto Trombone
VII. Alto Trombone
VIII. Bass Trombone

69 **H**

I. Tenor Trombone
II. Tenor Trombone
III. Tenor Trombone
IV. Tenor Trombone
V. Bass Trombone
VI. Alto Trombone
VII. Alto Trombone
VIII. Bass Trombone



73

I. Tenor Trombone
II. Tenor Trombone
III. Tenor Trombone
IV. Tenor Trombone
V. Bass Trombone
VI. Alto Trombone
VII. Alto Trombone
VIII. Bass Trombone