

Magnificat

Canticle of the BVM
(Luke 1: 46–55)

attributed to
DIETRICH BUXTEHUDE (1637–1707)
Edited by John Rutter

Ritornello

Keyboard reduction

6

12

17

22 SOPRANOS 1 and 2 [Soli]

Ma - gni - fi - cat a - ni - ma me - - a Do - mi - num:

My soul doth magnify the Lord:

This charming little work survives only in a single, manuscript source: a set of parts and a score from the collection of Gustav Düben, Kapellmeister at the German church in Stockholm from 1663–90. Düben knew Buxtehude, and over 100 Buxtehude pieces are in his collection; but the *Magnificat* cannot be shown to be one of them. There is no name on the title page, but the editor of the first modern edition (Grusnick, Bärenreiter, 1931) ascribed the work to Buxtehude on stylistic grounds, despite the fact that its lilting triple-time melodies with frequent hemiolas, its simple diatonic harmony with much use of thirds, and its clear sectional structure are more characteristic of the Franco-Italian *bel canto* style of Carissimi and Lully. There is no doubt, however, of the music's melodic appeal and endearing simplicity. The scoring is for 2 violins, 2 violas, cello, bass, and continuo, but the violas are optional: the score (written in German organ tablature) omits them, and the texture is satisfactorily complete without them. Solo/tutti indications in this edition are editorial, as are small notes and crossed slurs.

Source: Uppsala, Düben collection, *Vokalmusik i Handskrift* 69:17. The score and parts concur well. Slurs are in the parts only. SSATB clefs are used for the voice parts, modern clefs for the string parts. Modern key and time signatures are used throughout. **Variants:** 25 i 5: 2nd soprano 'a' underlaid to first note of 26 in part / 68 i 1: 1st soprano has *d''* not *e''* in part (*e''* in score) / 80 i 3: 2nd soprano has *G♯* in part (*G♯* in score) / 175 i 2: *G♯* in part (*G♯* in score). The English translation is from the BCP (1662). The keyboard reduction is editorial. Full scores and instrumental parts are available on rental from the publisher.

Approximate duration: 8 minutes

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