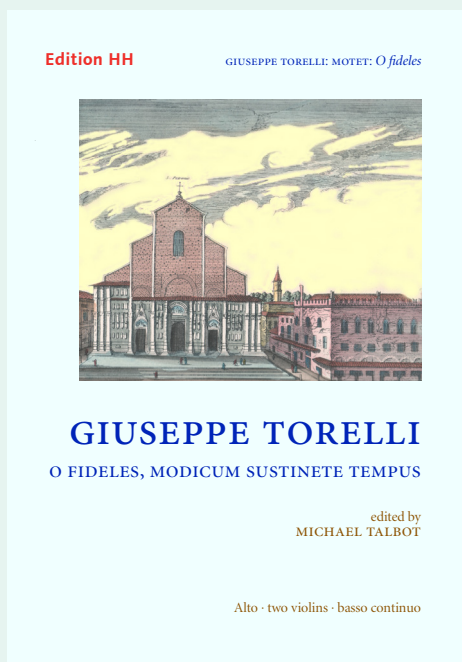


GIUSEPPE TORELLI

MOTET: *Totus orbis, umbra canit* for soprano, two violins and continuo

edited by Michael Talbot



Giuseppe Torelli (1658–1709)
Motet: *Totus orbis, umbra canit*
edited by Michael Talbot
HH435.FSP · xiv/10 + 4 × 4 pages

Giuseppe Torelli (1658–1709) was the reputed father of the instrumental concerto, yet he also composed sacred vocal music. Discovered in 2001, when the Berlin Sing-Akademie's archive was returned from Kiev (where it had been hidden away since the Second World War), his three-movement Christmas motet *Totus orbis, umbra canit* ('The whole world, the darkness sings'), scored for soprano, two violins and continuo, is a splendid example of its genre. Torelli probably wrote it at Ansbach during a brief interregnum around 1700 when his employer, the Basilica di San Petronio in Bologna, temporarily suspended its orchestra, leaving its members to seek their fortune elsewhere. Like its predecessors in the series (HH433.FSP, HH434.FSP), this is a vibrant, technically challenging work full of exquisite touches that reaches the level of similar motets by Alessandro Scarlatti and looks forward to Vivaldi.

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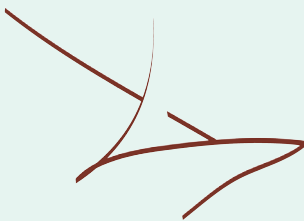
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TOTUS ORBIS, UMBRA CANIT

GIUSEPPE TORELLI
(1658–1709)

I

[Allegro]

Violino 1

Violino 2

Soprano

Basso continuo

SOPRANO
TWO VIOLINS
BASSO CONTINUO

5

To-tus, to-tus or - bis, to-tus, to-tus

10

or-bis, um-bra ca - nit, Et de coe - lo ca - dunt ro - res, et de coe -

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Edited by Michael Talbot
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