

THE

# THREE HOLY CHILDREN 

## AN ORATORIO

In Two Parts, The Words Selected From
The Holy Scriptures

The Music Composed by
Charles Villiers Stanford
(Op. 22-1885)

PIANO/VOCAL SCORE

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## EMALISII IIERITIHE <br> MUSIC SERIES

The "renaissance" in English music is generally agreed to have started in the late Victorian period, beginning roughly in 1880. Public demand for major works in support of the annual choral festivals held throughout England at that time was considerable which led to the creation of many large scale works for orchestra with soloists and chorus.

Although a number of those works were engraved, printed and are regularly performed today, performance scores for a considerable number of compositions, both large-scale and more intimate works, are not available. These works were either never engraved or were engraved and printed but are no longer available in the publishers' catalogues. While the existence of these works is documented in biographies of the composers, the ability to study and, most importantly, to perform these compositions is not possible.
Changes in the International copyright laws, coupled with changing musical tastes, played a pivotal role in creating this void. As a result, music publishers lost the ability to generate revenue from the sale/rental of such music. In 1964, holograph and copyist scores from both Novello and from publishers it represented were offered to the British Library and the Royal College of Music Library (see The RCM Novello Library - The Musical Times, Feb. 1983 by Jeremy Dibble ).

These autograph full score manuscripts along with copies of engraved vocal scores, widely available through various online library sources, are now the only resources available for studying and performing these works.

The English Heritage Music Series has been created to ensure that these compositions are preserved, are accessible for scholarly research and, most importantly, are available for performance by future generations. Its mission is to:

- Source non-engraved/out-of-print English composer compositions that are in the U.S. public domain
- Preserve these compositions through the preparation of performance scores using notation software
- Provide open Internet access to the scores to facilitate study, performance and sharing of performance material (program notes, audio, reviews, etc.)

In preparing the English Heritage Music Series editions, every effort has been made to adhere strictly to the notation contained in the manuscripts. Because of the passage of time and its effect on the condition of the manuscript, the absence of clear information often times by the composer in notating divided instruments, and with emendations in the composer and other hands resulting from use of the manuscript in performance, there were numerous circumstances which required interpretation and decisions for notes, accidentals, dynamics, articulations and tempi. Should questions arise in the use of these editions, the composers' autograph manuscripts and the Novello vocal scores should be consulted for clarification.

Matthew W. Mehaffey<br>Editor<br>Professor of Music<br>University of Minnesota - School of Music<br>Minneapolis, Minnesota USA

## Source Information

Full Score Manuscript
Vocal Score
Manuscript Transcription \& Score Preparation

Royal College of Music Library, MS 4162
Stanley Lucas, Weber \& Co. S.L.W. 2238 © 1885
David Fielding - dhcfielding@charter.net

## Reference Material and Software



## Dramatic Personæ

| Azarias | Tenor |
| :--- | :--- |
| Ananias | Baritone |
| Misael | Bass or Bass-Baritone |
| The Herald | Baritone or Bass-Baritone |
| The King | Baritone or Bass-Baritone |
| Soprano solo and Chorus |  |

## PREFATORY NOTE

The words of this Oratorio have been selected in the main from those portions of the Old Testament and of the Apocrypha which relate to the period of the Captivity of the Jews under Nebuchadnezzar ; the most important exception being the version of a hymn to Merodach (Bel) from an Assyrian inscription.

It has been thought better to leave the words of Scripture without alteration, even where that course involved an alternation of direct speech and narrative, as in the case of the opening chorus and of the choruses which describe the king's anger and the kindling of the furnace.

For the sake of compression, a combination of the Prayer of Azarias (Song of the Three Children) and of the $148^{\text {th }}$ Psalm (its probable prototype) has been employed for the final chorus.

The metronome marks are to be considered only as an approximate indication of the tempi :they are not intended unduly to hamper the discretion and feeling of the Conductor.

## THE THREE HOLY CHILDREN

Nebuchadnezzar, King of Babylon, has erected on the plain of Dura a great image of Bel, and has summoned his subjects to worship it, under penalty of death by fire.

Some Assyrian soldiers on their way to obey his summons, come upon a company of Jewish women, seated by the river Euphrates, who are mourning over the captivity of their race. Taunted by their captors, the women reply by songs of praise for their lost country, and imprecations on their enemies. They are comforted by a prophecy of their return from captivity.


BY THE WATERS OF BABYLON
Arthur Hacker, 1888


THE BURNING FIERY FURNACE
George Jones, 1832

PART I.
( BY THE WATERS OF BABYLON )

## No. 1 - INTRODUCTION \& CHORUS

Jewish Women
Ay the waters of Babylon we sat down and wept ; when we remembered thee, O Sion.
For they that led us away captive required of us then a song, and melody, in our heaviness,

## No. 2 - MARCH \& CHORUS

$\begin{array}{ll}\text { Assyrian Warriors } & \text { Sing us one of the songs of Sion. } \\ \text { Jewish Women } & \text { How shall we sing the Lord's song in a strange land ? }\end{array}$
(Psalm 137: 1, 2, 3 )
(Psalm 137:3, 4 )

## No. 3 - SOLO \& CHORUS


#### Abstract

Soprano Solo and Jewish Women If I forget thee, O Jerusalem, let my right hand forget her cunning. If I do not remember thee, let my tongue cleave to the roof of my mouth; Yea, if I prefer not Jerusalem in the day of my mirth.


(Psalm 137: 5, 6 )
O God, the heathen have come into Thine inheritance ; Thy holy temple have they defiled, and made Jerusalem an heap of stones.
(Psalm 79: 1 )

## No. 4 - CHORUS

Assyrian Warriors Down with them! Come, let us make havock of them altogether.
Let us burn up the houses of God in the land.
Down with them, down with them, even unto the ground.
(Psalm 74: 9 ; Psalm 137: 7 )

## No. 5 - SOLO \& CHORUS

Soprano Solo and Jewish Women

O daughter of Babylon, wasted with misery: yea, happy shall he be that rewardeth thee as thou hast served us.
Blessed shall he be that taketh thy children ; and dasheth them against the stones.
(Psalm 137: 8, 9 )
By the waters of Babylon we sat down and wept ; when we remembered thee, O Sion.
(Psalm 137: 1 )

## No. 6 - CHORUS

The heathen shall fear Thy name, O Lord, and all the kings of the earth Thy Majesty; when the Lord shall build up Sion, and when His glory shall appear.,
( Psalm 102: 15, 16 )
O Jerusalem, look about thee towards the east, and behold the joy that cometh unto thee from God.
For lo! Thy sons come, whom thou sentest away; they come gathered together from the east to the west by the word of the Holy One, rejoicing in the glory of God.

## PART II.

( ON THE PLAIN OF DURA )

## No. 7 - CHORUS OF ASSYRIANS

| Chorus of Assyrians $\quad$ | Bel!Great is thy name, among all gods most honoured thou. |
| :--- | :--- |
|  | With fuller hand thou givest back the gifts we bring to thee. |
|  | Kingship be thine over gods and men, |
|  | High thy commands, unconquered thy sword, |
|  | Tremble thy foes over all the earth! |

(From an Assyrian Inscription )
The Three Children As for the images of the heathen, they are but silver and gold : even the work of men's hands. They have mouths, and speak not; eyes have they, but they see not.
They have ears, and yet they hear not ; neither is there any breath in their mouths.
They that make them are life unto them ; and so are all they that put their trust in them.
(Psalm 135: 15, 16, 17, 18 )
Chorus of Assyrians Bel! Great is thy name!
Kingship be thine over gods and men. (The King and Assyrian Warriors enter) O king, live forever. Thy greatness is grown, and reacheth unto heaven, and thy dominion to the end of the earth.
(Daniel iv: 22 )

## No. 8 - THE HERALD AND CHORUS OF ASSYRIANS

Herald To you it is commanded, O people, nations, and languages, that at what time ye hear the sound of musick, ye fall down and worship the golden image that the king hath set up ; and whoso falleth not down and worshippeth, shall be cast into the midst of a burning fiery furnace.
( Daniel iii: 4,5,6 )
Chorus $\quad$ O king, live for ever : thy greatness is grown and reacheth unto heaven, and thy dominion to the
ends of the earth.
(Daniel iv: 22 )

## No. 9 - INSTRUMENTAL INTERLUDE AND CHORUS

Assyrian Worshippers
Bel! Great is thy name!
(Daniel iv: 22 )

## No. 10 - THE KING, THE THREE CHILDREN \& SEMI-CHORUS OF ASSYRIANS

Semi-Chorus O king, live for ever. There are certain Jews whom thou set over Babylon, Ananias, Azarias and Misael ; these men, O king, have not regarded thee ; they serve not thy gods, nor worship the golden image which thou hast set up.

The King Is it true? Do ye not serve my gods, nor worship the golden image which I have set up ? Now if ye fall down and worship well ; but if ye worship not, ye shall be cast the same hour into the midst of a burning fiery furnace ; and who is that God that shall deliver you out of my hand.

The Three Children Our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace, and He will deliver us out of thine hand, O king. But if not, be it known unto thee, O king, we will not serve thy gods, nor worship the golden image which thou hast set up.
(Daniel iii: 9, 12, 14, 15, 17, 18 )

# PART II contd. <br> ( ON THE PLAIN OF DURA ) 

## No. 11 - CHORUS

Then was the king full of fury, and the form of his visage was changed against the men ; therefore he spake, and commanded that they should heat the furnace seven times more than it was wont to be heated. And he commanded the most mighty men that were in his army to bind and cast them into the furnace. Then these three men were bound, and cast into the midst of the burning fiery furnace.
( Daniel iii: 19, 20, 21 )

## Semi-Chorus of Jewish Women

O daughter of Babylon, wasted with misery; yea, happy shall he be that rewardeth thee as thou hast served us.
(Psalm 137: 8 )

## No. 12 - THE THREE CHILDREN

Azarias Blessed art Thou, O Lord God of our fathers ; Thy Name is worthy to be praised and glorified for evermore;
For Thou art righteous in all the things that Thou hast done to us: yea, true are all Thy works, Thy ways are right, and all Thy judgments truth.
For we have sinned and committed iniquity, departing from Thee.
in all things have we trespassed, and not obeyed Thy commandments, nor kept them, neither done as Thou hast commanded us, that it might go well with us.
And now we cannot open our mouths, we are become a shame and reproach to Thy servants, and to them that worship Thee.
Yet deliver us not up wholly, for Thy Name's sake, neither disannul Thou Thy covenant : and cause not Thy mercy to depart from us,
But in a contrite heart and humble spirit let us be accepted.
And now we follow Thee with all our heart; we fear Thee, and seek Thy face.
Put us not to shame : but deal with us after Thy loving-kindness, and according to the multitude of Thy mercies.
Deliver us also according to Thy marvelous works, and give glory to Thy servants hurt be ashamed ; And let them be confounded in all their power and might, and let their strength be broken;

The Three Children And let them know that Thou art Lord, the only God, and glorious over the whole world.
( Prayer of Azariah: 3, 4, 6, 7, 10, 11, 16, 18, 20, 21, 22 )

## No. 13-SOPRANO SOLO AND SEMI-CHORUS

Ye are My witnesses and My servants whom I have chosen ; that ye may know and believe Me , and understand that
I am He ; before Me there was no God formed, neither shall be after Me.
I, even I, am the Lord ; and beside Me there is no Saviour.
( Isaiah xliii: 10 )

## No. 14-INSTRUMENTAL INTERLUDE \& CHORUS

And the King's servants that cast them in ceased not to make the furnace hot with rosin, and pitch, tow and wood ; So that the flame streamed forth high above the furnace ;
And it passed through and slew those whom it found about the furnace.

## No. 15 - SOLO

But the angel of the Lord came down into the furnace, and smote the flame of the fire out of the furnace; And made the midst of the furnace as it had been a moist whistling wind, so that the fire touched them not at all, neither hurt nor troubled them.
( Prayer of Azariah: 26, 27 )

## No. 16 - THE KING, THE THREE CHILDREN, CHORUS OF ASSYRIANS AND JEWS

The King Did we not cast three men bound into the midst of the fire ?
Chorus True, O King.
The King Lo! I see four men loose, walking in the midst of the fire, and they have no hurt ; and the form of the fourth is like the Son of God.
( Daniel iii: 24, 25 )
The Three Children Blessed art thou O Lord God of our fathers, and to be praised and exalted above all for ever. And blessed is Thy glorious and holy name, and to be praised and exalted above all for ever. Blessed art Thou, in the Temple of Thy holy glory, and to be praised and exalted above all for ever.
( Prayer of Azariah: 29, 30, 31 )


#### Abstract

The King Ye servants of the Most High God, come forth and come hither. Blessed be your God, who hat sent His Angel, and delivered His servants that trusted in Him ; there is no other God that can deliver after this sort. Chorus There is no other God that can deliver after this sort.


( Daniel iii: 28, 29 )


## No. 17-DOUBLE CHORUS

O all ye works of the Lord, bless ye the Lord, praise and exalt Him above all for ever. O ye heavens, bless ye the Lord, praise and exalt Him above all for ever.
O ye angels of the Lord, bless ye the Lord, praise and exalt Him above all for ever. O ye waters above the heavens, bless ye the Lord, praise and exalt Him above all for ever.
O ye powers of the Lord, bless ye the Lord, praise and exalt Him above all for ever.
O ye sun and moon, bless ye the Lord, praise and exalt Him above all for ever.
O ye stars of heaven, bless ye the Lord, praise and exalt Him above all for ever.
O ye showers and dew, bless ye the Lord, praise and exalt Him above all for ever.
O ye winds of God, bless ye the Lord, praise and exalt Him above all for ever.
Praise the Lord upon earth ; ye dragons and all deeps ;
Fire and hail, snow and vapour ; wind and storm fulfilling His word.
O ye mountains and all hills; fruitful trees and all cedars;
O ye fowls of the air, bless ye the Lord, praise and exalt Him above all for ever.
O ye beasts and cattle, bless ye the Lord, praise and exalt Him above all for ever.
O ye children of men, bless ye the Lord, praise and exalt Him above all for ever.
O ye priests of the Lord, bless ye the Lord praise and exalt Him above all for ever.
All that worship the Lord, bless ye the Lord, praise and exalt Him above all for ever.
For His Name only is excellent, and His praise above heaven and earth.
Hallelujah !

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## THE THREE HOLY CHILDREN


"By the Waters of Babylon They Sat Down and Wept", Kate Gardiner Hastings, 1853

## PART I - BY THE WATERS OF BABYLON

## NO 1. Instrumental Introduction and Chorus of Jewish Women.


S. L. W. 2238.



21
















No 2. March. Chorus of Assyrians and Jewish Women.




## 213 M







## No 3. Soprano Solo and Chorus of Jewish Women.



304



331


337




358


362


364




373








需．





439



## No 4.-Chorus of Assyrians.






461







514


517



523


526


528


531


536


## No 5. Soprano Solo and Chorus of Jewish Women.







575






610


618



624


626





651


655


No 6.-Chorus.




Gg:


























## PART II.

On the Plain of Dura.

NO 7. Chorus of Assyrians.





31


35




55












153



161












288

$\operatorname{col} 8^{v a}$




## No 8. The Herald. Chorus of Assyrians.





No 9. Instrumental Interlude \& Chorus of Assyrian Worshippers.



413








# No 10. The King, the three Children and <br> Semi-Chorus of Assyrian Nobles. 


*) A few voices only.








621 Auimato.


623




633


635


## No 1l. Chorus.









No 12. Solo. Azarias.



757





803


805





825


828



838


847


851



867







## No 13. Soprano Solo and Semi Chorus. SS.AA.TT.*



* N. A few selected voices only to each part.


NB. It is important that in this Chorus the individual singers should take breath at different timen, in order to ensure a continuous and even flow of sound.

1010


1015



1019


1021


1023 Tempo I.






1077 Un poco più mosso.



NO 14. Chorus.


1107










1179


## No 15. Soprano Solo.

## Listesso tempo.





1211





1242



1251


## NO 16. The King, the three Children, Chorus.




1277




1308




1324 Allegro maestoso. $(d=120$.

1332
\%:

most high God, come forth and come hi tha!


1337



## No 17. Double Chorus.





1399



1408





him, praise him,






ye the Lord, praise.... and ex - alt him a-bove all for e



- ver, for e - - ver, ex - alt him, ex - alt him, ex -

- ver, for e ver, ex - alt.




Praise the Lord ap_on earth:........................ y. y.


Praise the Lord ap_on earth:.


Praise the Lord ap_on earth:











ful - fil - ling his word.







1563

wor-ship the Lord,.......................................
All that



dII that wor-ship the Lord,













FEBRUARY, $188 \mathbf{5}$.

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