I Pastori – Patrick Keefe

There are four source materials for this piece. First, a Florentine lauda penned by Lucrezia de' Medici (mother of Lorenzo) entitled 'Deh venitene pastori', and it's anonymous musical setting. Second, 'The Shepherds', a poem by the Elizabethan poet William Drummond of Hawthornden. Third, a motet by Philippe Verdelot called 'Letamini in Domino' which is structured around a canon of the Savonarolan lauda 'Ecce quam bonum'. The final source materials were architectural drawings of Santa Maria del Fiore in Florence, where Verdelot was Maestro di Capella during at least the third decade of the 16th century. The title translates the title of Drummond's poem into Italian to reflect the combination of languages in the piece.

The two texts were paired due to shared subject matter, associations of the coming of Christ with that of the shining Sun, and Drummond's interest in Italian poetic forms such as laude and sonetti. They appear simultaneously in the piece, much like in Verdelot's motet, and follow the canonic structure he laid out. The head motifs are designed to compliment the lauda melody (the music appears in Serafino Razzi's 1563 collection and is borrowed from an untraced secular song), in order to harmonise against it, and last 14 minims at the opening and 17 minims at the start of the second section. This is due to the architecture of the *Duomo*. The ratio of the length of the crossing to that of the nave is 1.21428571 units, and this structure is mirrored in the music. The second head motif lengthens the initial subject by this amount (14 x 1.21428571) which equals exactly 17 minims. Additionally, the moment of tonal/motivic change occurs within the framework of the architectural structure: the crossing occurs at 7/13.5 units of the whole, and therefore the second section of the piece begins at 7/13 of the duration of the piece $(7/13.5 \times 69 = 35.77777... \sim 35.75 \text{ bars, or the last}$ minim of the 35th bar). The architecture also governs the harmonic shift at this moment - as the crossing is a 90-degree rotation the harmony is shifted by 90 degrees in clock arithmetic (a 0-3 transposition in set theory terminology), shifting the tonal centre by a minor third. The initial canonic voices remain in the original tonality (as the 'nave' continues, overlapping the crossing), creating moments of harmonic tension, and are joined by new canonic voices which perform the tenor line from the original Florentine lauda setting in the new key.

The aesthetic narrative of the piece is designed to mirror the experience of the shepherds: it begins with bright consonances and an overlapping polyphonic lattice as the angels surround them, with two canonic voices addressing the 'pastori' through the midst of them. The second section reflects their uncertainty and fright at the bright 'risplendente' spectacle, before obtaining the confidence to appear in passionate devotion to the 'Babe' at the conclusion of the piece.

Notated melody should be 212 lines as And occur at 75 of bill deather, and last

Deh venitene pastori A vedere Giesù ch'é nato. Nel presepio ignudo nato Più che'l sol è risplendente.

Lucrezia de' Medici (1427-1482)

O THAN the fairest day, thrice fairer night! Night to best days, in which a sun doth rise Of which that Golden eye which clears the skies Is but a sparkling ray, a shadow light! And blessèd ye, in silly pastors' sight, Wild creatures in whose warm crib now lies That heaven-sent youngling, holy maid-born wight, 'Midst, end, beginning of our prophecies! Blest cottage that hath flowers in winter spread! Though withered, - blessed grass, that hath the grace To deck and be a carpet to that place! Thus sang unto the sounds of oaten reed, Before the Babe, the shepherds bowed on knees; And springs ran nectar, honey dropped from trees.

William Drummond of Hawthornden (1585-1649)

Oh come shepherds to see Jesus who is born, in a manger, naked was he born and he shines more brightly than the sun.

I PASTORI

William Drummond of Hawthornden (1585-1649)













