

Stabat Mater Dolorosa Pergolesi

GIOVANNI BATTISTA PERGOLESI, ARR. HUGH LEVEY





CLARINET QUARTET

SCORE & PARTS

Stabat Mater Dolorosa

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The Stabat Mater Dolorosa is the first of twelve movements in the Stabat Mater by 18th Century Italian composer Giovanni Battista Pergolesi. It is a beautiful piece of music which portrays Mary's sadness and grief while witnessing her son, Jesus's, crucifixion. It was written in 1736, the year Pergolesi died of tuberculosis aged only 26. The words date back to the 13th Century and have been set by many composers; both before and after Pergolesi. The opening movement uses just the first stanza, which is shown below in the criginal Latin and in a poetic inglish translation;

Stabat mater dolorósa juxta Crucem lacrimósa dum pendébat Fílius.

At the Cross her station keeping, stood the mournful Mother weeping close to her Son to the last

Pergolesi's 1736 original is scored for two solo voices (soprano and alto), accompanied by two violins, viola, and basso continuo. The continuo part would normally be played by violoncello and organ or other keyboard instrument. This transcription for Clarinet Quartet covers all parts as an instrumental piece.

Duration: approximately 4 minutes 30 seconds

PERFORMANCE NOTES

The movement is marked Grave, so should be slow and contemplative. A metronome marking of around 42 for a crotchet (quarter note) beat is suggested by the arranger. The baroque period ornaments have been interpreted and written out, because many clarinettists will not be familiar with them. However, listening to good recordings will provide further ideas. Although the Stabat Mater is sombre, it needs to retain a lightness of touch at all times. For example, the quaver (eighth note) off-beats should be played delicately.

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Stabat Mater

Giovanni Battista Pergolesi (Arr. H. Levey)





