Magnificat
For choir and organ
Melbourne – 1886

Samuel Pascal Needham
Devon, 1847 – Queensland, 1914

Edited by
Richard Divall

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Introduction

Born in Temerton, Devon in 1847, Needham arrived in South Australia on 30 April 1857, aged nine. It is thought that he studied under George Loder (1816-1868), a composer and musician who lived in Adelaide after considerable music making in both Sydney and Melbourne. Needham was an accomplished organist. After marriage in Adelaide in 1869, he became a banker and was the manager of the Union Bank in Fremantle and organist at St John’s Church. It is there where he composed the Cantata Land of the Swan to the text of Francis Hart, which was performed at the Perth International Exhibition in November 1881. For a period he was the music critic for the West Australian newspaper.

In the 1880’s he moved to Melbourne where for a time he was the replacement conductor for the Melbourne Liedertafel, which was under the direction of Julius Hertz. He was also organist at All Saint’s Church in St Kilda. Needham was considered a cultivated man who read widely, and composed and conducted within Melbourne’s community. He composed an opera entitled The Fire King, and several songs there in the 1880’s which were published by Charles Troedel, of the printing firm Troedel and Co, which was founded around 1869. Needham is cited as being a member of the Freemasons Lodge No. 747 in 1887. He might have decamped back to England leaving his wife, for in the UK Census of 1891 he is registered as a Professor of Music in Tunbridge Wells, Kent, and with another wife. Some ten compositions of his, dating from 1899 to 1908 are recorded in the Catalogue of the British Library. One of his sons might have brought him back to Perth at an advanced age, and he died at Moreton in Rosewood, Queensland in February 1914.

His Magnificat and Nunc Dimittis was published by Troedel in 1886 or 1887, and a copy is held in the National Library of Australia, NLA mus-vn2815699. Obviously composed for the Choir of St Paul’s Cathedral in Flinders Street, Melbourne it was dedicated to the Right Reverend Field Flowers Goe DD (1832-1910), who served as Anglican Bishop of Melbourne from 1887 to 1901. Bishop Goe was largely responsible for the continuing construction of St Paul’s Cathedral. There is a large-scale portrait of him at the Chapter House of St. Paul’s Cathedral by the painter James Clarke Waite (1832-1920), who also painted the portrait of the benefactor Alfred Felton, of the Felton Bequest, which hangs in the National Gallery of Victoria.

The Choir of the Cathedral had had a long history, and from 1887 was under the direction of the organist Ernest Wood who had trained at Lincoln Cathedral. The work by Needham is scored for four-part choir and organ, and the cover is inscribed as dedicated to the Lord Bishop of Melbourne.
The interior of St Paul's Anglican Cathedral, Melbourne

The cover page of the Magnificat and Nunc Dimittis by Samuel Pascal Needham
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Richard Divall
June 2014

CRITICAL NOTES

There are no editorial notes.

The Editor
Frà Professor Richard Divall AO OBE is a Vice-Chancellor’s Professorial Fellow at Monash University, an Honorary Principal Fellow in Music at The University of Melbourne, and Visiting Professor at The University of Malta. He is Chairman of the Marshall-Hall Trust and is a Knight of Malta in Solemn Religious Profession. He was awarded a D.Lett. (Hon Causa) in 1992 by Monash University, and a Doc. Univ. (Hon Causa) by the Australian Catholic University in 2004. He holds a PhD in Theology from the University of Divinity on eighteenth-century sacred music on Malta that includes an edition of the complete sacred works of Nicolò Isouard (1773-1818), and is an Honorary Research Fellow at the same university. In 2014 he was appointed a Visiting Professor of Music at King’s College London. Richard Divall has edited early Australian music since 1967.
Magnificat and Nunc Dimittis

Dedicated to the Rt Rev Field Flowers Goe
Lord Bishop of Melbourne

Magnificat

Sopranos

Luke 1: 46-55 and
The Song of Simeon Luke 2: 29-32

My soul doth magnify the Lord, and my spirit hath rejoiced, rejoiced in God my Saviour, For He hath regarded the lowliness of

Alto

headed by Richard Divall

Tenors

My soul doth magnify the Lord, and my spirit hath rejoiced, rejoiced in God my Saviour, For He hath regarded the lowliness of

Basses

My soul doth magnify the Lord, and my spirit hath rejoiced, rejoiced in God my Saviour, For He hath regarded the lowliness of

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His handmaiden. For behold from henceforth all generations shall call me blessed, for His handmaiden. For behold from henceforth all generations shall call me blessed, for His handmaiden. For behold from henceforth all generations shall call me blessed, for His handmaiden. For behold all generations shall call me blessed, for

He that is mighty hath magnified me and Holy is His name, and His mercy is on He that is mighty hath magnified me and Holy is His name, and His mercy is on He that is mighty hath magnified me and Holy is His name, and His mercy is on He that is mighty hath magnified me and Holy is His name, and His mercy is on

For me and for the mother of my brethren, and for the mother of all who fear the name of the Lord shall the name of the Lord be praised. For me and for the mother of my brethren, and for the mother of all who fear the name of the Lord shall the name of the Lord be praised. For me and for the mother of my brethren, and for the mother of all who fear the name of the Lord shall the name of the Lord be praised. For me and for the mother of my brethren, and for the mother of all who fear the name of the Lord shall the name of the Lord be praised.
them, is on them that fear Him throughout all generations. He hath shewed them, is on them that fear Him throughout all generations. He hath shewed them, is on them that fear Him throughout all generations. He hath shewed

strength with His arm, He hath scattered, hath scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts. He hath scattered, hath scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts. He hath scattered, hath scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts. He hath scattered, hath scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts.

in the imagination of their hearts. He hath scattered, hath scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts. He hath scattered, hath scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts. He hath scattered, hath scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts. He hath scattered, hath scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts.
nation of their hearts. He hath put down the mighty from their nation of their hearts. He hath put down the mighty from their nation of their hearts. He hath put down the mighty from their nation of their hearts.

rall e dim

rall e dim

seat.

seat.

seat.

seat.
Più lento

He hath ex-al-ted the hum-ble and meek, He hath fil-led the hun-gry with good things.

He hath ex-al-ted the hum-ble and meek, He hath fil-led the hun-gry with good things.

He hath ex-al-ted the hum-ble and meek, He hath fil-led the hun-gry with good things.

He hath ex-al-ted the hum-ble and meek, He hath fil-led the hun-gry with good things.

Più lento

and the rich He hath sent emp-ty, sent emp-ty a-way.

and the rich He hath sent emp-ty, sent emp-ty a-way.

and the rich He hath sent emp-ty, sent emp-ty a-way.

and the rich He hath sent emp-ty, sent emp-ty a-way.

cresc e vigoroso

cresc e vigoroso
He re-memb'ring His mercy hath hol-pen His servant Is-ra-el.

He hath hol-pen His servant, hath hol-pen His servant Is-ra-el, as He promis-ed to our fore-
father, He promised to our forefather, Abraham, to our forefather, to
father, He promised to our forefather, Abraham, to our forefather, to

He rememb'ring His

hath holpen His servant Israel, He promised to our, to

our forefather, Abraham, to Abraham and his seed for
our forefather, Abraham, to Abraham and his seed for
mercy as He promised to our forefather, to Abraham and his seed for
our forefather, Abraham, to Abraham and his seed for

Con spirito ma non troppo presto

Glo-ry be to the Fa-ther, and to the Son, and to the Ho-ly Ghost, and to the Ho-ly Ghost, and to the Ho-ly

Glo-ry be to the Fa-ther, and to the Son, and to the Ho-ly Ghost, and to the Ho-ly

Glo-ry be to the Fa-ther, and to the Son, and to the Ho-ly Ghost, and to the Ho-ly

Con spirito ma non troppo presto
Ghost.

As it was in the beginning, is

Ghost. As is was, it was in the beginning, in the beginning, is

Ghost. As is was in the beginning, as it was in the beginning is

Ghost. As is was in the beginning, as it was in the beginning is

now, is now and ever shall be, World

rall e dim

now, is now and ever shall be, World

rall e dim

now and ever shall be, is now and ever shall be, World

rall e dim

now, is now and ever shall be, World
Nunc Dimittis

Lord, now let-test Thou Thy ser-vant de-part in peace, ac-cor-ding, ac-cor-ding

Lord, now let-test Thou Thy ser-vant de-part in peace, ac-cor-ding, ac-cor-ding

Lord, now let-test Thou Thy ser-vant de-part in peace, ac-cor-ding, ac-cor-ding

Lord, now let-test Thou Thy ser-vant de-part in peace, ac-cor-ding, ac-cor-ding
to Thy word, for mine eyes, for mine eyes have seen Thy salvation which Thou hast prepared before the face, before the face of all people, before, before the

which Thou hast prepared before the face of all people, before, before the

which Thou hast prepared before all people, before, before the
And face of all people.

face of all people. To be a light to lighten the Gentiles,

face of all people. To be a light to the Gentiles,

Quartette - più lento

And to be the glory, and to be the glory to be the glory, the glory of Thy people, the glory

And to be the glory of Thy people, the glory
of Thy people, Israel, of Thy people, of Thy people, Israel.

of Thy people, Israel, of Thy people, of Thy people, Israel.

of Thy people, Israel, of Thy people, of Thy people, Israel.

rall

Con spirito ma non troppo presto

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy

Con spirito ma non troppo presto
Ghost, and to the Holy Ghost.

As is was, it

Ghost, and to the Holy Ghost. As is was in the begin-

ning, is now, is

was in the beginning, in the beginning, is now, is

ginning, as it was in the ginning, is now and ever

ginning, as it was in the ginning, is now, is
now and ever shall be, World without end, world
shall be, is now and ever shall be, World without end, world
now and ever shall be, World without end, world
without end, world without end. Amen.
without end, world without end. Amen.
without end, world without end. Amen.
without end, world without end. Amen.