Benedictus
For choir and organ
Melbourne – c. 1896

John Henry King
Melbourne, 1855 – Southport, 1934

Edited by
Richard Divall
Introduction

Henry John King descended from a long and active musical family. His father, Henry John King senior arrived in Melbourne in 1854, and advertised himself as a teacher of the harp, piano, violin and guitar, and teaching at Emerald Hill. Other members of the family were musicians and the King dynasty were listed as key performers in the Madame Anna Bishop concerts under George Loder. The father was the leader of the Royal Philharmonic Society of Melbourne orchestra from 1857 to 1860. Henry John King junior was born in South Melbourne in 1855 and was taught music at an early age within the family, and then by the composer Charles Edward Horsley, who had been a pupil of Mendelssohn, Ignaz Moscheles and Louis Spohr.

King junior’s talents were obviously valued at an early stage, for in 1872 at the age of sixteen or seventeen, he copied the orchestral parts for Horsley’s Violin Concerto in D minor. In 1885 this set of parts was given to the then visiting Australian born violin virtuoso, Johann Secundus Kruse (1859-1927), and were found with other key scores in sets of his papers at the Baillieu Library of The University of Melbourne. King is listed in local newspapers as working as an organist in Portland, and in 1876 in Castlemaine, both in Victoria. He was appointed as organist to the prestigious St Mark’s Anglican Church in Fitzroy, and began a prolific career in composition. There are several secular works cited as being written by him, including the Cantata, The Wedding, and an opera in four acts and a prologue entitled Penelope, set to a libretto by a Mrs J A King.

King’s great musical opportunity was when his work, The Centennial Cantata, was selected as the winner of a competition by a committee and premiered at the Centennial International Exhibition of 1888 in Melbourne. Set to a text by the Rev William Allen, the cantata was performed under the baton of the composer and conductor Frederic Cowen at the opening of the Exhibition in 1 August 1888. Some commentators were critical of the work, though it was published by Glen and Co.

King distinguished himself as a composer of sacred music and settings of his Mass, a Benedictus, and a Magnificat and Nunc Dimittis which were published before 1900 in London by the London Music Publishing Company, and are held in Australian libraries. The Benedictus is dedicated to his friend Robert S Thomson. The work is extremely well written for the voice, and the organ parts show a considerable expertise on the instrument. There are no critical notes required. King relocated to Queensland in 1910, possibly for health reasons and he passed away at Southport on 27 June 1934.

---


2 This set of manuscript orchestral parts are now held in the National Library of Australia, MS 9876, in the papers of Johann Kruse.
*Benedictus.*

Allegro maestoso, ma moderato.

Soprano.
Alto.

Tenor.
Bass.

Organ.

Allegro maestoso, ma moderato.

Heary John King.

Lord God of Is - ra - el: For He hath vi - si - ted, and re -

m - ed, re - deem - ed His peo - ple; And hath

Ped in Svec

* From "The Morning and Evening Service, together with the office for the Holy Communion, set to Music in the Key of D by Henry John King"

The London Music Publishing Company Limited, 7 Great Marlborough St., London, W.
L.M.1886 P. Co.
ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

I would like to acknowledge the support of the Australian Research Theology Foundation and the assistance from the Marshall-Hall Trust and my fellow Trustees, Sir James Gobbo AC, Lady Primrose Potter AC, Professor John Poynter AO OBE and Associate Professor Therese Radic. I express my deep appreciation to Allan and Maria Myers AO, to the Rector and Provost of Newman College, The University of Melbourne. And especially to Professor Ed Byrne AC, the President and Vice-Chancellor of Monash University, to Professor John Griffiths and the Head of the Sir Zelman Cowen School of Music, Associate Professor Rob Burke for their support and assistance of this project. I greatly appreciate the assistance of our Editorial Coordinator Mitchell Mollison.

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. Richard Divall has edited early Australian music since 1967.
Benedictus

Henry John King 1855 - 1934
Edited by Richard Divall

Allegro maestoso, ma moderato

Soprano

Alto

Tenor

Bass

Allegro maestoso, ma moderato

Sw. to Gt. Org

Pedals

© 2014 Richard Divall
In the house of His servant David; As He spake by the

That mouth of His holy Prophets: Which have been since the world began:

That mouth of His holy Prophets: Which have been since the world began:
we should be saved from our enemies, And from the hands of those who
we should be saved from our enemies, And from the hands of those who

Add soft reed.

senza Ped.

hate us:

hate us:

And to perform the mercy promised to our forefathers; And to re-

To perform the mercy promised to our forefathers; And to re-

Sw. Ch.

To perform the mercy promised to our forefathers; And to re-

p
To perform the oath which He swore to our forefather
member His holy Covenant; To perform the oath which He swore to our forefather
member His holy Covenant; To perform the oath which He swore to our forefather

Sw.               Gt.                   Sw. to Gt.

Sw. to Gt.       Gt. to Ped.             Sw.               Gt.               Sw. to Gt.

Abraham; that He would give us:
Abraham; that He would give us:
Abraham; that He would give us: That we being delivered out of the hand of our
Abraham; that He would give us: That we being delivered out of the hand of our

Sw.
In holiness and righteousness before enemies might serve Him without fear; in holiness and righteousness all the days of our life.

And Thou, child, shalt be called the And Thou, child, shalt be called the

a tempo

Him: all the days of our life. Him: all the days of our life.
To give

Prophet of the highest; for Thou shalt go before the face of the Lord to prepare his ways:

Sw.

Ped.

knowledge of salvation unto His people; for the remission of their sins. Through the

Through the

Sw. to Gt.

senza ped.
tender mercy of our God; Where-by the day spring from on high hath visited

us; To give light to them that sit in darkness, and in the shadow, the

us; To give light in darkness and in the shadow, the

us; To give light to them that sit in darkness, and in the shadow, the

us; To give light to the shadow, the

Ch.

senza Ped.
Lento e tranquillo

Maestoso

Maestoso
was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end.

Amen.