Sanctus

Franchino Gaffurio (1451-1522)?

Source: Milan, Archivio della Veneranda Fabbrica del Duomo, Sezione Musicale, Librone II, fol. 135v/136r; facs. ed. New York, Garland, 1987. The original is a minor third lower; accidentals and text in square brackets are editorial.

The *Librone* are four manuscript choir books in large format (so the entire choir could read from a single book) copied around the turn of the 15th century under the direction of Gaffurio, the cathedral choirmaster. They contain works by many of the great composers of the late 1400s, as well as Gaffurio himself, almost all of whose output is found nowhere else. Then, as now, he was better known as the theorist Franchinus Gaffurius (the Latin form of his name), than as a composer.

This isolated *Sanctus* (not part of a unified setting of the entire Ordinary of the Mass, or of the shortened version used in the Ambrosian Rite at Milan) is one of two pieces from *Librone II* which had not been transcribed into modern notation at the time of the facsimile edition, and a search of the literature has not revealed any indication that it has been done since. It is anonymous in the manuscript, but is written in Gaffurio's hand, as was all the music in the *Librone* which is attributed to him; and since it is unique to this source, there is no evidence it was written by anyone else.

Franchino Gaffurio?









The manuscript does not include a *Benedictus* or second *Osanna*. In some Masses copied in the *Librone*, the scribe has indicated that the *Benedictus* text is to be sung to the same music as the *Pleni* section, as is often the case in chant; such a setting is included on the next page for those who would not wish to sing a truncated version. The second *Osanna* is, as was almost always the case, simply a repeat of the first.

