

Missa Hercules dux Ferrariae - 1. Kyrie

Josquin des Prez (c1450–1521)

Edition by Clarke Weigle

The musical score is written for four voices: Soprano, Alto, Tenor, and Bass. It is in a 3/4 time signature with a key signature of two flats (B-flat and E-flat). The tempo is marked as quarter note = 64. The lyrics are: Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son, Ky - ri - e, Ky - ri - e, Ky - ri - e, Ky - ri - e, Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son, Ky - ri - e, Ky - ri - e, Ky - ri - e, Ky - ri - e, Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son. Chri - ste e -

7

13

98

Copyright ©2022, and dedicated to Sam Nelson and the choir of the Episcopal Church of the Redeemer in Sarasota, Florida. This edition is a minor 3rd higher than original pitch to give female singers a chance to sing some interesting Josquin. The note values have been shortened for readability, and a few phrases have been moved between parts. Based on a CPDL transcription by Hitoshi Yamamoto.

Josquin des Prez was commissioned to write a mass for Duke Hercules of Ferrara. Josquin set for himself the challenge of using a cantus firmus built from his patron's name. The sequence of the vowels in "Hercules dux Ferrariae" were replaced with corresponding syllables of the solfège scale, ut, re, mi, fa (at the time "ut" was used instead of "do"), creating the tune "re, ut, re, ut, re, fa, mi, re". This chant-like theme recurs in each section of the mass, sometimes in retrograde or diminution. Josquin seems to have invented this technique, called *soggetto cavato*, which is similar to the musical cryptograms used by Bach, Schumann, Berg, and Shostakovich.

Missa Hercules dux Ferrariae - 1. Kyrie

19

S -le - - - - - i - son, e - le - - - - - i -

A - e - le - - - i - son, Chri - ste e - le - - - i - son,

T

B e - le - - - i - son, Chri - ste e - le - - - i - son, Chri -

25

S -son, Chri - - - ste e - le - - - - - i -

A Chri - ste e - le - - - i - son,

T Chri - - - - - ste e - - - le - - - - -

B -ste Chri - ste e - le - - - i - son, Chri - ste e - le -

31

S -son, Chri - ste e - - - - - le - i - son.

A Chri - ste e - le - i - son, e - - - le - i - son.

T - i - - - - son.

B - - i - son, Chri - ste e - le - - - - i - son.

