

HYMNS FOR THE ORTHODOX LITURGY

BY THE WATERS OF BABYLON

(PSALM 136)

Aleksandr Andreevich Arkhangelsky (1846-1924) was one of the most distinguished choral conductors and church composers in Russia at the turn of the 20th century, with a career spanning the years 1873-1924. His prolific output of several hundred works for the Orthodox liturgy can be divided into two categories: free compositions in a sentimental, Romantic style, and chant harmonizations that are quite serene and archaic in their harmonic language.

By the Waters of Babylon falls in the latter category. The work is based on a *znamenny* chant found in the *Triodion sirech' Tripesnets* [The Chants of the Lenten Triodion], (Moscow: Sinodal'naia Tipografiia, 1900) pp. 4v-5. The irregular meters of the melody (which have been preserved in the English setting) subtly express the sorrowful and turbulent emotions of the psalm text.

The present English edition is based on the Slavonic original published in Arkhangelsky's lifetime. The melodies of the solo verses have been adjusted to achieve a smooth declamation of the English text, while preserving the melodic contour of the original chant. The original harmonization had no dynamics or tempo markings; the present markings, the dotted barlines, and the auxiliary time signatures have been added by the editor.

The Orthodox *Typikon* prescribes Psalm 136 to be sung following the Polyeleos at Matins on the three Sundays preceeding Great Lent. The present chant setting, unlike some settings composed in concert style, presents the complete text of the psalm.

Set in English and edited by
VLADIMIR MOROSAN

ALEKSANDR ARKHANGELSKY
(1846-1924)

Harmonization of
Znamenny Chant

1. [♩ = 72] *mf*

Soprano Alto

Tenor Bass

BY THE WA TERS OF BAB - Y - LON, THERE

mf

WE SAT DOWN AND WEPT WHEN

WE RE - MEM - BERED - ZI - ON,

6/2 4/2 5/2 (6+1)/4 4/2

REFRAIN (after each verse):

p $\frac{8}{2}$

AL - LE - LU - I - A!

p

2.

Solo (Alto or Baritone)

ON THE WIL - Lows THERE WE - HUNG UP OUR LYRES.

ALLELUIA

3.

FOR THERE OUR CAP - TORS RE - QUIRED OF US SONGS,

ALLELUIA

AND OUR - TOR - MEN - TORS RE - QUIRED - MIRTH.

4.

"SING - US ONE - OF THE SONGS - OF ZI - ON."

ALLELUIA

5.

HOW SHALL WE SING THE LORD'S - SONG IN A FOR - EIGN LAND?

ALLELUIA

6.

IF I FOR - GET YOU, O JE - RU - SA - LEM,

ALLELUIA

LET - MY - RIGHT HAND - WITH - ER!

7.

LET MY TONGUE CLEAVE TO THE ROOF - OF MY

ALLELUIA

MOUTH, IF I DO NOT RE - MEM - BER YOU.

8.

ALLELUIA

IF I DO NOT SET JE - RU - SA - LEM A - BOVE MY - HIGH - EST JOY!

9.

RE - MEM - BER, O LORD, ON

ALLELUIA

THE DAY OF JE - RU - SA - LEM'S FALL,

10.

THE SONS OF E - DOM SAID: "DE - STROY IT!

ALLELUIA

TEAR - IT DOWN TO ITS FOUN - DA - TIONS!"

11.

ALLELUIA

O DAUGH-TER OF BAB - Y - LON, MOST - WRETCH - ED!

12.

BLESS - ED IS HE WHO RE - QUIRES

ALLELUIA

YOU WITH - WHAT - YOU HAVE - DONE TO US.

13.

BLESS - ED IS HE WHO TAKES YOUR LIT - TLE

ALLELUIA

ONES AND DASH - ES THEM A - GAINST THE ROCK!