

Monteverdi's Gloria for 8 voices M 27

Have a break from Monteverdi. Explore a much later piece of music and find out how it relates to the Gloria.

Have you heard of Paganini's Caprice no 24 for solo violin. More to the point - have you heard it? There are lots of performances on Youtube. Try www.youtube.com/watch?v=Lkn4eBjQ6eU

Paganini was a violin virtuoso, and he wrote pieces like this to show off his fantastic playing. He composed this early in the 19th century - nearly 200 years after Monteverdi wrote the Gloria.

What's the connection? There are two. Three if you count the fact that both pieces are in A minor. Look at the chord pattern for the first 4 bars. Ahah!

And what about the melody pattern? Paganini plays around with the A and the C in the A minor chord, and makes up a pattern. He repeats that idea for the E major chord. And so on, and so on.

The Caprice is for solo violin, so Paganini didn't write a bass part to help one decide what the chords are. But they are implied by the tune, and can be written in. This first section is the theme. Paganini then plays around with it, making different versions of it called variations, giving him the opportunity to shine.

It's proved to be a very popular piece over the years, not only in the original but reworked by numerous composers, including Rachmaninoff, Brahms, Benn Goodman and Andrew Lloyd Webber.

Am E Am E Am E

4 Am E A Dm G C

7 G⁷ Am E⁷ Am

a sort of B chord