

Cambridge University Press
0521453771 - Monteverdi: Vespers (1610)
John Whenham
Frontmatter
[More information](#)

CAMBRIDGE MUSIC HANDBOOKS

Monteverdi: Vespers (1610)

Cambridge University Press
 0521453771 - Monteverdi: Vespers (1610)
 John Whenham
 Frontmatter
[More information](#)

CAMBRIDGE MUSIC HANDBOOKS

GENERAL EDITOR Julian Rushton

Cambridge Music Handbooks provide accessible introductions to
 major musical works.

Published titles

- Bach: *The Brandenburg Concertos* MALCOLM BOYD
 Bach: *Mass in B Minor* JOHN BUTT
 Bartók: *Concerto for Orchestra* DAVID COOPER
 Beethoven: *Missa solemnis* WILLIAM DRABKIN
 Beethoven: *Pastoral Symphony* DAVID WYN JONES
 Beethoven: *Symphony No. 9* NICHOLAS COOK
 Berg: *Violin Concerto* ANTHONY POPE
 Berlioz: *Roméo et Juliette* JULIAN RUSHTON
 Brahms: *A German Requiem* MICHAEL MUSGRAVE
 Brahms: *Symphony No. 1* DAVID BRODBECK
 Britten: *War Requiem* MERVYN COOKE
 Chopin: *The Four Ballades* JIM SAMSON
 Debussy: *La mer* SIMON TREZISE
 Gershwin: *Rhapsody in Blue* DAVID SCHIFF
 Handel: *Messiah* DONALD BURROWS
 Haydn: *The Creation* NICHOLAS TEMPERLEY
 Haydn: *String Quartets, Op. 50* W. DEAN SUTCLIFFE
 Holst: *The Planets* RICHARD GREENE
 Ives: *Concord Sonata* GEOFFREY BLOCK
 Janáček: *Glagolitic Mass* PAUL WINGFIELD
 Liszt: *Sonata in B Minor* KENNETH HAMILTON
 Mahler: *Symphony No. 3* PETER FRANKLIN
 Mendelssohn: *The Hebrides* and other overtures R. LARRY TODD
 Mozart: *Clarinet Concerto* COLIN LAWSON
 Mozart: *The 'Jupiter' Symphony* ELAINE R. SISMAN
 Musorgsky: *Pictures at an Exhibition* MICHAEL RUSS
 Nielsen: *Symphony No. 5* DAVID FANNING
 Schoenberg: *Pierrot lunaire* JONATHAN DUNSBY
 Schubert: *Die schöne Müllerin* SUSAN YOUENS
 Schumann: *Fantasia, Op. 17* NICHOLAS MARSTON
 Sibelius: *Symphony No. 5* JAMES HEPOKOSKI
 Strauss: *Also sprach Zarathustra* JOHN WILLIAMSON
 Stravinsky: *Oedipus rex* STEPHEN WALSH
 Verdi: *Requiem* DAVID ROSEN
 Vivaldi: *The Four Seasons* and other concertos, Op. 8 PAUL EVERETT

Cambridge University Press
0521453771 - Monteverdi: Vespers (1610)
John Whenham
Frontmatter
[More information](#)

Monteverdi

Vespers (1610)



John Whenham



Cambridge University Press
 0521453771 - Monteverdi: Vespers (1610)
 John Whenham
 Frontmatter
[More information](#)

PUBLISHED BY THE PRESS SYNDICATE OF THE UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE
 The Pitt Building, Trumpington Street, Cambridge CB2 1RP, United Kingdom

CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY PRESS
 The Edinburgh Building, Cambridge CB2 2RU, United Kingdom
 40 West 20th Street, New York, NY 10011-4211, USA
 10 Stamford Road, Oakleigh, Melbourne 3166, Australia

© Cambridge University Press 1997

This book is in copyright. Subject to statutory exception and to the provisions of relevant collective licensing agreements, no reproduction of any part may take place without the written permission of Cambridge University Press.

First published 1997

Typeset in Monotype Ehrhardt 10.5/13 pt

A catalogue record for this book is available from the British Library

Library of Congress cataloguing in publication data

Whenham, John.

Monteverdi, Vespers (1610) / John Whenham.

p. cm. – (Cambridge music handbooks)

Discography: p. 134

Includes bibliographical references (p. 130) and index.

ISBN 0 521 45377 1 (hardback). – ISBN 0 521 45979 6 (paperback).

1. Monteverdi, Claudio, 1567–1643. Vespro della Beata Vergine.

I. Title. II. Series.

410.M77W44 1997

782.32'4–dc21 96–47886 CIP MN

ISBN 0 521 45377 1 hardback

ISBN 0 521 45979 6 paperback

Transferred to digital printing 2005

AH

Contents

<i>Acknowledgements</i>	page vii
<i>List of abbreviations</i>	viii
1 Introduction	1
2 The 1610 settings and the liturgy of Vespers	6
Vespers: liturgy, plainsong, <i>falsobordone</i>	6
Problems posed by the 1610 Vespers	15
3 The 1610 print and Monteverdi's career	23
The 1610 publication	23
Monteverdi and church music at Mantua	29
Three theories	30
Motives for publication	35
4 'Suited to the chapels or chambers of princes'	41
'Duo Seraphim'	43
'Nigra sum' and 'Pulchra es'	47
'Audi cælum'	54
'Sonata sopra Sancta Maria'	56
5 'And all on a <i>cantus firmus</i> '	60
Response 'Domine ad adiuvandum'	61
'Dixit Dominus'	62
'Laudate pueri'	64
'Lætatus sum'	67
'Nisi Dominus'	72
'Lauda Ierusalem'	74
'Ave maris stella'	76
The Magnificat settings	77

Cambridge University Press
 0521453771 - Monteverdi: Vespers (1610)
 John Whenham
 Frontmatter
[More information](#)

Contents

6	Issues of performance	82
	Performance with period instruments	85
	Performance with solo voices	87
	Instrumental accompaniment	89
	Transposition	90
	Tempo and proportions	91
	Liturgical and concert performance	92

Appendices

1	Second Vespers for the Feast of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin (15 August)	95
2	Plainsongs, texts and translations	100
	<i>Notes</i>	121
	<i>Select bibliography</i>	130
	<i>Discography</i>	134
	<i>Index</i>	137

Cambridge University Press
0521453771 - Monteverdi: Vespers (1610)
John Whenham
Frontmatter
[More information](#)

Acknowledgements

The preparation of a book necessarily incurs many debts of gratitude, and for their advice and help in resolving questions of various kinds I should like to thank Gregory Barnett, Laura Davey, John Edwards, John and Sally Harper, Mary O'Neill, David Parker, Valerie Edden and Duncan Fielden. Julian Rushton and Graham Dixon read earlier drafts of the book and made many helpful suggestions and criticisms for which I am most grateful. For their constant patience and support I have to thank Jenny, Nicholas and Christopher, to whom this book is dedicated.

The English translations of Latin liturgical texts quoted in Appendixes 1 and 2 are from Dom Gaspar Lefebvre, *Saint Andrew Daily Missal, with Vespers for Sunday and Feasts* (Bruges, 1954) and are used with permission.

Abbreviations

A	Alto/Altus
<i>AM</i>	<i>Antiphonale Monasticum</i>
B	Bass/Bassus
Bar	Baritone
BCP	The Book of Common Prayer
Bg	<i>Bassus generalis</i>
Bt	Monteverdi, <i>Vespers</i> (1610), ed. Clifford Bartlett, revised edn, Autumn 1990 (King's Music, Redcroft, Banks End, Wyton, Huntingdon, Cambridgeshire PE17 2AA, England)
C	Cantus
Ct	Counter-tenor
<i>GB-Bu</i>	Great Britain, Birmingham University Library
<i>GB-Lbl</i>	Great Britain, London, British Library
<i>LU</i>	<i>Liber Usualis</i>
MS(S)	Manuscript(s)
Ms	Mezzo-soprano
Q	Quintus
R	Monteverdi, <i>Vespro della Beata Vergine</i> , ed. Jerome Roche (London &c.: Eulenburg, 1994)
S	Sextus
Sop	Soprano
St	Monteverdi, <i>Vespers for Soloists, Double Choir, Organ and Orchestra</i> , ed. Denis Stevens (London: Novello, 1994)
T	Tenor