

= Locus iste (Bruckner) =

Locus iste (English : This place) , WAB 23 , is a sacred motet composed by Anton Bruckner in 1869 . The text is the Latin gradual Locus iste for the annual celebration of a church 's dedication . The incipit , Locus iste a Deo factus est , translates to " This place was made by God " . Bruckner set it for four unaccompanied voices , intended for the dedication of the Votivkapelle (votive chapel) at the New Cathedral in Linz , Austria , where Bruckner had been a cathedral organist . It was the first motet that Bruckner composed in Vienna . It was published in 1886 , together with two other gradual motets .

As a composition with no obvious technical difficulty , it has been performed by church choirs and by professionals , often to celebrate church dedications .

= = History = =

Bruckner composed Locus iste on 11 August 1869 . It was intended for the dedication ceremony of the Votivkapelle (votive chapel) at the New Cathedral in Linz , Austria . The New Cathedral was under construction since 1862 , and the Votivkapelle was completed in 1869 as its first section . At that time Bruckner lived in Vienna , teaching at the Vienna Conservatory as a professor of harmony and counterpoint , and at the Vienna University as a part @-@ time lecturer from 1876 . He had a strong connection to the Old Cathedral of Linz , where he had been the organist from 1855 to 1868 . He had already been commissioned by Bishop Franz @-@ Josef Rudigier to compose a Festive Cantata for the laying of the foundation stone of the new cathedral , and composed Preiset den Herrn (Praise the Lord) on a text by Maximilian Pammesberger , which was performed on 1 May 1862 on the building site .

The Latin text of Locus iste is the gradual Locus iste , part of the proper of the mass for Kirchweih , the anniversary of a church 's dedication . While some sources claim that the motet was first performed on the dedication day , 29 September 1869 , together with the first performance of Bruckner 's Mass in E minor , it was actually performed four weeks later , on 29 October , at the same location . Bruckner dedicated the work to Oddo Loidol , one of his students at the Vienna Conservatory . It was Bruckner 's first motet composed in Vienna .

The motet was edited together with three other motets based on graduals (Christus factus est , WAB 11 , Os justi , WAB 30 , and Virga Jesse , WAB 52) by Theodor Rättig , Vienna in 1886 . Locus iste is often performed on the anniversary of a church 's dedication . It is put in Band XXI / 25 of the Gesamtausgabe .

= = Music = =

The motet is scored for a unaccompanied mixed choir . It is in the key of C major and in common time , has 48 bars and takes about three minutes to perform . The text concentrates on the concept of the sacred place , based on the Biblical story of Jacob 's Ladder , Jacob 's saying " Surely the Lord is in this place ; and I knew it not " (Genesis 28 : 16) , and the story of the burning bush where Moses is told " put off thy shoes from off thy feet , for the place whereon thou standest is holy ground " (Exodus 3 : 5) .

Bruckner structured the three lines of the text in an ABA da capo form , closed by a coda , with A containing the first line , framing the second and third . Peter Strasser suggests that the work reflects elements of architecture , such as in the symmetry of the da capo form and the use of motifs like building blocks .

The motet is marked Allegro moderato and begins calmly in homophony . Max Auer notes that the beautiful work has touches with Mozart 's Ave verum . A. Crawford Howie notes further that the work " begins with Mozartian phrases , but soon introduces characteristic Brucknerian progressions " . The repeat of the first line , beginning one step higher , is marked mf , confirming " a Deo factus est " higher and stronger , then repeating it softly . The bass begins each " a Deo factus est " . Musicologist Anthony Carver notes here as in many of Bruckner 's motets the " isolation of the bass

part at structurally important points " . The bass also begins the second line with a new rising motif , marked f ; the upper voices follow in homophony . The line is repeated as a sequence a step higher , marked ff . After a pause of half a bar , the tenor alone begins in sudden pp the middle section on a repeated note , imitated by soprano and alto . Throughout the section , only the upper voices , without a bass foundation , sing in chromaticism , beginning in undefined tonality . In a gradual crescendo , the intensity is heightened , but only to mf . Iso Camartin notes in an article dedicated to the work in the Neue Zürcher Zeitung : das unanfechtbare Geheimnis (the irreproachable mystery) appears as unfassbar (incomprehensible) and beunruhigend (disturbing) , described by Ryan Turner as " transparently chromatic " .

After another rest of half a bar , the first line is repeated . Instead of the last " factus est " , the word " Deo " is extended to the only melisma of the otherwise austere , strictly syllabic composition . The author of the program notes for an Oratorio Society of New York CD that includes the motet writes that the melisma " spins an ethereal spell " . It leads to a long general pause , achieved " by carefully measuring out five beats " , before " a Deo , Deo factus est " is repeated a final time , concluding " peacefully and serenely " . The author of the Oratorio Society notes concludes by stating that " Locus iste is a hauntingly beautiful work reminiscent of the quiet chapel it honored " . Writing for Gramophone , Malcolm Riley called it " sublime (and deceptively difficult) " .

= = Selected discography = =

The first recording of Bruckner 's Locus iste occurred in the beginning of the 20th century :

Karl Luze , Chor der Kaiserlichen Hofmusikkapelle ? 78 rpm gramophone disc G.C. / HMV 44762 , c . 1907 (no sample of it currently available)

A selection of the over 200 recordings of Bruckner 's Locus iste :

Matthew Best , Corydon Singers , Bruckner : Motets ? CD : Hyperion CDA66062 , 1982

Philippe Herreweghe , la Chapelle Royale / Collegium Vocale , Ensemble Musique Oblique , Bruckner : Messe en mi mineur ; Motets ? CD : Harmonia Mundi France HMC 901322 , 1989

Frieder Bernius , Kammerchor Stuttgart , Bruckner : Mass in E minor ; Ave Maria ; Christus factus est ; Locus iste ; Virga Jesse ? CD : Sony CL SK 48037 , 1991

John Eliot Gardiner , Monteverdi Choir , Bruckner : Mass No. 1 ; Motets ? CD : DG 459 674 ? 2 , 1998

Dan @-@ Olof Stenlund , Malmö Kammarkör , Bruckner : Ausgewählte Werke ? CD : Malmö Kammarkör MKKCD 051 , 2004

Petr Fiala , Tschechischer Philharmonischer Chor Brno , Anton Bruckner : Motets ? CD : MDG 322 1422 @-@ 2 , 2006

Ulf Samuelsson , Ungdomskören OPQ , Under höga valv ? CD : Olaus Petri Församling OPCD001 , 2006

Michael Stenov , Cantores Carmeli , Benefizkonzert Karmelitenkirche Linz ? CD / DVD issued by the choir , 2006 , and on YouTube .

Stephen Layton , Polyphony Choir , Bruckner : Mass in E minor & Motets ? CD : Hyperion CDA 67629 , 2007 @, @

Erwin Ortner , Arnold Schoenberg Chor , Anton Bruckner : Tantum ergo ? CD : Issue of the choir , 2008

Otto Kargl , Domkantorei St. Pölten , Bruckner : Messe E @-@ Moll , CD : ORF CD 3174 , 2013