

COMPOSED FOR THE BIRMINGHAM FESTIVAL, 1912.

*W. H. Adams
arr. from H. W. D.*

Song of Saint Francis *Sept 14. 1912.*

being certain Praises of the Lord as concerning His creatures which St. Francis of Assisi did compose a little before his departure to encourage the hearts of those that should hear them and that the Lord might be praised of man in His creatures.

SET TO MUSIC

FOR SOLI, CHORUS AND ORCHESTRA

BY

H. WALFORD DAVIES.

(Op. 36)

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SONG OF SAINT FRANCIS

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The words here used have been compiled and adapted from the original (as found in Brother Leo's *Mirror of Perfection*) and from various translations, notably that of the late Mr. Sebastian Evans, to whom, as indeed to many others who have given valuable help, the writer owes a deep debt of gratitude.

SONG OF SAINT FRANCIS

being certain Praises of the Lord
as concerning His creatures.

I. Prologue.

*Altissime, Omnipotens,
Bone Domine !*
Thine be the praises,
And the glory,
And the honour,
And every blessing,
Ad Te solum, Altissime, sunt debita ;
And no mortal is worthy to call upon Thee.
Praised be Thou, O my Lord, of all Thy creatures !
Laudare Domine meus !

Of Brother Sun.

Above all of Brother Sun, my lord,
Who doth bring in the dawn,
And doth give us the light,
For fair is he and radiant with great splendour.
Teque, Altissime, demonstrat.
Laudare !

II. Of Sister Moon
and the Stars.

Laudare Domine meus
Of Sister Moon and the Stars ;
In the heaven hast Thou formed them
Clear and precious and beautiful.
Laudare !

III. Of Brother
Wind and the
Air.

Laudare Domine meus
Of Brother Wind and the Air,
Of the clouds and the clear,
And of all weathers
By the which Thou uſt holdest life in all Thy creatures.
Laudare !

IV. Of Sister
Water.

Laudare Domine meus
Of Sister Water ;
For manifold is her use,
And humble is she and precious,
And chaste.
Laudare !

v. Of Brother Fire.

Laudare Domine meus
Of Brother Fire,
By whom Thou dost illumine the night.
Comely is he and jocund,
And masterful, and strong.

Laudare !

vi. Of Sister Earth
our Mother.

Laudare Domine meus
Of Sister Earth our Mother
That doth cherish us
And hath us in keeping,
And doth bring forth fruit in abundance,
And flowers of many colours,
And the grass.

Laudare !

vii. Of them that
forgive for the
love of God.

Laudare Domine meus
Of them that forgive others for love of Thee,
And that do endure adversity and tribulation,
Yea, blessed are they that do endure in peace ;
Of Thee, *Allissime*, shall they be crowned.

Laudare !

viii. Of Sister
Death.

The blessed Francis, hearing that death was close at hand gave praise to God and said: "Forasmuch as that, an it please the Lord, I am so soon to die, call Brother Angelo and Brother Leo unto me that they may sing to me of Sister Death." Then those two brethren with many tears chanted the Song that the holy man had made.

Laudare Domine meus
Of Sister Death
From whom no man living may escape.
Woe to them who die in mortal sin ;
Blessed are they that find themselves in Thy most
holy will,
For them the second death can do no hurt.

ix. Epilogue.

*Laudate et benedicite Dominum,
Et gratias agite,
Et cum grandi humilitate servite.*

END.