



Stella Maris

for solo organ

Tyler Versluis

2014

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for solo organ

Programme notes:

The *Stella Maris* is an ancient Latin name for Polaris, the North Star.

It became an important reference point for ancient sailors in celestial navigation, and later became one of many epithets for Mary, Mother of God.

Therefore, in both Christian and pre-Christian cultures the *Stella Maris* represented an infallible guide when all other points of reference changed their position and landmarks disappeared from the horizon.

Notes for performer:

As an organist myself, I have experienced firsthand the myriad ways and methods of approaching conventional notation for the pipe organ. In this piece, I have selected what I consider to be a compromise between intentionality and artistic freedom in regards to notation, registration, dynamics and tempo.

I have composed this piece so that it is playable on a two-manual organ with an enclosed swell division, although naturally an organist with 3 or more manuals is free to experiment with other possibilities.

All registrations marked in the score are suggestions, and have been placed along with recommended dynamic levels as such:

Great: String or Flute stop(s) 8" *p*
Swell: Solo Flute stop + 2 2/3 *mp*
Pedal: Soft 16", couple to Great *p*

The swell box should be open for the entire piece, except for mm. 189-198.

Performance time: 8.5 minutes

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Great: String or Flute stop(s) 8' *mp*
Swell: Solo Flute stop + 2 2/3' *p*
Pedal: Soft 16', couple to Great *p*

Sans rigore (♩ = 80)

rall.

Giusto (♩ = 120)

Organ

GREAT (both hands)

SWELL

5

3

3

10

Musical score for measures 10-13. The piece is in 3/4 time. Measure 10 features a sixteenth-note triplet in the right hand and a half note in the left hand. Measure 11 has a sixteenth-note triplet in the right hand and a half note in the left hand. Measure 12 has a sixteenth-note triplet in the right hand and a half note in the left hand. Measure 13 has a sixteenth-note triplet in the right hand and a half note in the left hand.

14

Musical score for measures 14-16. The piece is in 3/4 time. Measure 14 features a sixteenth-note triplet in the right hand and a half note in the left hand. Measure 15 has a sixteenth-note triplet in the right hand and a half note in the left hand. Measure 16 has a sixteenth-note triplet in the right hand and a half note in the left hand. The word "shimmering" is written above the right hand in measure 14.

17

Musical score for measures 17-19. The piece is in 3/4 time. Measure 17 features a sixteenth-note triplet in the right hand and a half note in the left hand. Measure 18 has a sixteenth-note triplet in the right hand and a half note in the left hand. Measure 19 has a sixteenth-note triplet in the right hand and a half note in the left hand. The word "SWELL (both hands)" is written in a box above the right hand in measure 17. The word "GREAT" is written in a box above the right hand in measure 19.

Sans rigore (♩ = 80) *rall.*

Giusto (♩ = 120)

19

GREAT (both hands)

SWELL

24

shimmering

27

29

Musical score for measures 29-31. The piece is in 6/4 time. Measure 29 features a melodic line in the right hand with a slur over the first two measures and a fermata over the final note. The left hand provides harmonic support with chords and a triplet in measure 31. Measure 30 continues the melodic line with a slur and a fermata. Measure 31 features a triplet in the right hand and a triplet in the left hand.

32

Musical score for measures 32-33. The piece is in 6/4 time. Measure 32 features a melodic line in the right hand with a slur and a fermata, and a triplet in the left hand. Measure 33 features a melodic line in the right hand with a slur and a fermata, and a triplet in the left hand. The time signature changes to 5/4 for the final measure of this system.

34

Musical score for measures 34-35. The piece is in common time. Measure 34 features a melodic line in the right hand with a slur and a fermata, and a sextuplet in the left hand. Measure 35 features a melodic line in the right hand with a slur and a fermata, and a sextuplet in the left hand. A box labeled "GREAT" is placed above the right hand in measure 35. The time signature changes to 6/4 for the final measure of this system.

Sw. 4' flute, + 2&2/3 *p*
Gr. Strings *pp*
Ped. Solo reed (not too heavy) solo

Stella Maris

Adagio, quasi una cantilena (♩ = 90)

36 **SWELL**

GREAT

LH legato

Solo Reed

41

46

51 *rall.*

6

6

tr.

6

56 *a tempo*

3

61

GREAT

3

3

65

3 3 3

SWELL

68

rall.

Meno mosso

GREAT (both hands)

72

long

Allegro giusto

tutti *f*

Sw. Reeds, Mixtures
Gr. Reeds, Mixtures
Ped.16' Subbass
Couple Sw. to Ped.
Couple Sw. to Gr.

SWELL (both hands)

non legato

77

Musical score for measures 77-80. The system consists of three staves: a grand staff (treble and bass clefs) and a separate bass staff. The grand staff contains two systems of two staves each. The music is in a key with one sharp (F#) and a common time signature. It features a complex texture with many chords and moving lines in both hands.

81

Musical score for measures 81-85. The system consists of three staves: a grand staff (treble and bass clefs) and a separate bass staff. The grand staff contains two systems of two staves each. The music continues with complex textures and includes some melodic lines in the bass staff.

86

Musical score for measures 86-90. The system consists of three staves: a grand staff (treble and bass clefs) and a separate bass staff. The grand staff contains two systems of two staves each. The music includes the instruction *non legato* in the middle of the system. The bass staff has a *(non legato)* instruction at the beginning of the system. The music concludes with a series of notes marked with accents and slurs.

90

GREAT (both hands)

Couple Gr. to Ped.

93

96

non legato

SWELL

sempre non legato

101

Uncouple Gr. from Ped.

Detailed description: This system contains measures 101 through 105. It features three staves: two treble clefs and one bass clef. The music is in common time (C) and changes to 2/4 time at measure 103. The upper two staves have a complex texture with many sixteenth notes and slurs. The lower staff has a simpler bass line. A box labeled 'Uncouple Gr. from Ped.' is positioned above the bass staff at the start of measure 105.

106

Detailed description: This system contains measures 106 through 108. It features three staves: two treble clefs and one bass clef. The music continues with similar rhythmic patterns and slurs as the previous system. The bass staff remains mostly empty.

109

legato

SWELL (both hands)

poco rit.

Detailed description: This system contains measures 109 through 112. It features three staves: two treble clefs and one bass clef. A large slur covers the entire system. A box labeled 'SWELL (both hands)' is placed above the treble staff in measure 110. A box labeled 'poco rit.' is placed above the treble staff in measure 112. The music transitions to a more sustained, legato texture in the upper staves.

Gr. 8' Flutes or Strings	<i>p</i>
Sw. Weird, reedy solo stop	<i>mf</i>
Ped. 16' Subbass	<i>p</i>
Couple Gr. to Ped.	

SWELL

GREAT

SWELL (both hands)

(SWELL)

GREAT

112

116

122

128

(SWELL)

SWELL

non legato

134

non legato

140

GREAT

rall.

Sw. 4' Flute + Mixture	<i>mp</i>
Gr. 8' Flutes and Strings	<i>p</i>
Ped. 16' Subbass	<i>p</i>

148 *a tempo*

Musical score for measures 148-152. The score is written for three staves: Treble, Middle, and Bass. The Treble staff contains a melodic line with various intervals and accidentals. The Middle staff features a continuous eighth-note accompaniment. The Bass staff has a simple harmonic accompaniment with long notes and ties.

153

Musical score for measures 153-156. The Treble staff continues the melodic line. A box labeled "GREAT (both hands)" is placed over the Treble staff in measure 156. The Middle and Bass staves continue their respective accompaniment parts.

157

Musical score for measures 157-160. The Treble staff features a complex rhythmic pattern of chords. A box labeled "general cresc." is placed below the Treble staff, indicating a dynamic increase. The Middle and Bass staves continue their accompaniment.

Stella Maris

Sw. 8', 4', 2' Flutes and Reeds
Gr. 8', 4', 2' Flutes and Reeds
Ped. 16' + 8'
Couple Sw. and Gr. to Ped.

tutti *f*!

160

f

ad lib., quasi fantasia

164

(GREAT)

SWELL

168

well-marked

172

176

poco rit. *a tempo*

GREAT (both hands) SWELL (both hands)

Sw. 8', 4', 2' Flutes and Reeds
 Gr. 8', 4', 2' Flutes and Reeds
 Ped. 16' + 8'
 Couple Sw. to Gr.
 Couple Sw. and Gr. to Ped.

tutti *ff*!!

179

GREAT (both hands)

Musical score for measures 183-185. The score is written for piano with three staves: two treble clefs and one bass clef. Measure 183 starts with a treble clef and a key signature of two sharps (F# and C#). The first two staves contain chords with Roman numerals IV and VI. The bass staff has a rhythmic pattern of eighth notes. Measures 184 and 185 continue the chordal texture in the upper staves and the rhythmic pattern in the bass staff.

molto rall.

Lento, maestoso (♩ = 70)

Musical score for measures 186-190. The score is written for piano with three staves. Measure 186 starts with a treble clef and a key signature of two sharps. The first two staves contain chords with Roman numerals IV and VI. The bass staff has a rhythmic pattern of eighth notes. Measure 187 has a dynamic marking of *poco f*. Measure 188 has a dynamic marking of *poco f*. Measure 189 has a dynamic marking of *poco f*. Measure 190 has a dynamic marking of *poco f*. The score includes a "close swell box" instruction for the first two staves in measures 187-188.

Musical score for measures 191-195. The score is written for piano with three staves. Measure 191 starts with a treble clef and a key signature of two sharps. The first two staves contain chords with Roman numerals IV and VI. The bass staff has a rhythmic pattern of eighth notes. Measure 192 has a dynamic marking of *poco f*. Measure 193 has a dynamic marking of *poco f*. Measure 194 has a dynamic marking of *poco f*. Measure 195 has a dynamic marking of *poco f*. The score includes an "open swell" instruction for the first two staves in measures 194-195.

Sw. 4' flute, + 2&2/3

Gr. Strings

Ped. Solo reed (not too heavy)

come sopra

Adagio, quasi una cantilena (♩ = 90)

199

204

209

poco rit.

212

Musical score for measures 212-216. The score is in 3/4 time and features a piano accompaniment with a treble and bass clef. The melody in the treble clef consists of eighth and quarter notes. The bass clef part includes a triplet of eighth notes in measure 215. The piece concludes with a common time signature (C) at the end of measure 216.

a tempo

add Voix Céleste

217

Musical score for measures 217-221. The score is in common time (C) and features a piano accompaniment with a treble and bass clef. A box labeled "GREAT (both hands)" is placed over the first two measures. The melody in the treble clef consists of sustained chords. The bass clef part includes a triplet of eighth notes in measure 219. The instruction "reduce Ped. *p*" is written above the bass clef in measure 220. The piece concludes with a common time signature (C) at the end of measure 221.

222

Musical score for measures 222-226. The score is in common time (C) and features a piano accompaniment with a treble and bass clef. The melody in the treble clef consists of sustained chords. The bass clef part includes a triplet of eighth notes in measure 222. The piece concludes with a common time signature (C) at the end of measure 226.

228

poco rit. *a tempo*

(optional registration change,
to something bright, soft and angelic)

228 229 230 231 232

233

rall. al fine

233 234 235 236 237

S.D.G.

Toronto, March 2014