

COMPOSER'S NOTE

Cas radosti was composed for a concert of the Old Allegheny Festival Choir at Saint Wenceslaus Bohemian Church on the north side of Pittsburgh in December 1984. The harpist was Gretchen Van Hoesen of the Pittsburgh Symphony. This work composed for SSAATTBB, Solo Baritone, and Harp combines three musical materials from Czechoslovakia:

1. The Svaty Václave tune, bearing the text, "Bud' Bohu chvala" ("Glory to God");
2. The Slovak Introit for Christmas Day, Podekujmez, intoned first by the choir and then freely sung by the solo baritone; and,
3. The popular Christmas carol, *Cas radosti*, rendered in a contemporary choral idiom.

Following is the translation of the Slovak texts:

Baritone

Let us all give thanks to the Lord our God, who is born.
He has delivered us from the power of the devil and from eternal death.

Choir

Come rejoicing, praises voicing;
Christmas Day is breaking.
The eternal Lord supernal
Human form is taking.
He is born in a stall,
Now he lies, infant small,
In a manger, heavenly stranger, Lord of all;
In a manger, heavenly stranger, Lord of all.

Baritone

It is right to sing to him with the heavenly angels: "Glory to God in the highest!"

Choir

Angels proudly herald loudly in their songs elated: "Glory to God in the highest!"
Hallelujah!

Whom the sages and the ages
Anxiously awaited,
Angels proudly herald loudly
In their songs elated.
Let us, too, in these days,
Thankful hearts gladly raise,
To the tender infant render all our praise;
To the tender infant render all our praise. Hallelujah!

Baritone and Choir

Hallelujah!

Choir

"Glory to God in the highest!"

Child appealing, light revealing,
Jesus Christ, our pleasure;
God, yet very Son of Mary,
Heaven's gift and treasure.
Mighty king, gentle friend,
As our Lord to us bend,
And caressing us with blessing, now descend;
And caressing us with blessing, now descend.

© Carol Text: Jiri Tranovsky, 1591-1637; tr. Jaroslav J. Vajda
Tune: Bohemian carol, 12th cent.

The following is a literal translation of the carol and the original Slovak text:

▼
Cas radosti, veselosti, světu nastal nyňi;
A time of happiness, joy, has come to the world now;
Neb Buh věčný, nekonečný, narodil se z panny;
because God eternal, without end, is born of a virgin;
V městečku Betlémě, v jesličkách na slámě
In a little town of Bethlehem, in a manger on the straw,
leží malé pachoľátko na zimě.
lies a little baby in the cold.

Co jsme vsickni lidé hršni radostně čekali,
What we all sinners anxiously awaited,
to anjelé dnes vesele nám jsou zvěstovali:
the angels today joyfully to us announced:
A protož plesejme, vsickni se radujme,
Therefore rejoice, everyone be happy,
pachoľátku, nemlůvňatku zpivejme.
To the little baby let us sing.

Spasiteli, kvitku milý, Pane náš Ježíši,
Savior, dear lovely flower, our Lord Jesus,
z cisté, panny narozený, poklade nejdražší,
born from a virgin, a treasure beyond riches,
Krali náš, Pane náš, skloň se k nám, jako Pán,
Our king, our Lord, bow to us, as Lord,
dej milosti, své radosti dojit nám.
give mercy, grant to us your joy.