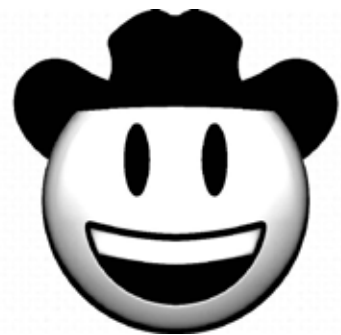


# HEILIGER DANKGESANG



for String Trio

MARK VAUGHN

# AN DIE GOTTHEIT

## Heiliger Dankgesang an die Gottheit

Mark Vaughn

Approx. 2 minutes

Denton, TX  
September 2020

*for the Amorsima Trio*

### Program Notes:

A brief journey into the idea of Beethoven from my own subjective position, this work glancingly engages with ideas, ideologies, cultural figures, institutions, quotations, musical quotations, mythology, religion, and dogs; which in one way or another, relate to the figure of the 18th-19th century German composer. These ideas are primarily presented in the form of text/speech, but they are combined with music written by Beethoven, as well as music written by other composers quoting Beethoven. This is meant to make perceivable some of the complexity of Beethoven as a cultural figure in this day and age.

Given the place of pride granted to Beethoven within musical education and concert music culture, it is incredibly important for educational institutions to encourage their students to turn a critical eye toward Beethoven, including his function in culture, how his music relates to standards of artistic legitimacy, and the influence he continues to exert upon musical aesthetics within the societal institutions designated for academic musical study. Though Beethoven is often presented as the unequivocal standard for quality in music, this idea is not informed by objective aesthetic truths, but usually by subjective, historical, cultural, and institutional forces. Acknowledgement of the complex and in many cases, arbitrary role of Beethoven in contemporary classical music and academic institutions can be an important starting point in assessing how these institutions operate and how they should operate.

### Performance Notes:

Quotation marks are used to denote which text should be spoken. All text in this piece is spoken. When the text is aligned with the pitches it signifies that the syllables should be spoken in time with the pitches played on the instrument.

Boxed material should be repeated until the end of the arrow and then cut off abruptly

When no time indication is given, the length of time is provided by the length of time it takes to declaim the text.

t.s.b.p.f. – tremolo speed and bow position from ponticello through tasto improvised freely

♯ – snap pizzicato

G.P – grand pause

^ – short fermata

• – quick pause

## Annotated Bibliography:

1. Barenboim, Daniel. "Home Page." beethoven-for-all.com. Accessed September 1, 2020.  
<http://www.beethoven-for-all.com/>
  - Taken from this website is a quote by Daniel Barenboim saying, "Beethoven's music is universal...no matter where in the world it speaks to all people."
2. Beethoven, Ludwig van. "String Quartet No. 15 in A minor, Op. 132, Mvmt. I and Mvmt. III." imslp.com. pg. 15. Accessed September 1, 2020.  
[https://ks.imslp.net/files/imglnks/usimg/2/28/IMSLP04769-Beethoven\\_-\\_String\\_Quartet\\_No.15\\_Dover.pdf](https://ks.imslp.net/files/imglnks/usimg/2/28/IMSLP04769-Beethoven_-_String_Quartet_No.15_Dover.pdf)
  - Text taken from this work is the title of the piece, which is the annotation written by Beethoven at the beginning of the third movement. Musical material taken is mm. 25-28 in the first movement and mm. 1-3 in the third movement. These correspond respectively to mm. 17-19 and mm. 1-3 in this piece.
3. Beethoven, Ludwig van. "String Trio No. 3 in G Major, Op. 9, No. 1." imslp.com Accessed September 1, 2020.  
[http://ks4.imslp.net/files/imglnks/usimg/f/fb/IMSLP313400-PMLP102967-LvBeethoven\\_3\\_String\\_Trios,\\_Op.9\\_BH\\_Werke\\_fs.pdf](http://ks4.imslp.net/files/imglnks/usimg/f/fb/IMSLP313400-PMLP102967-LvBeethoven_3_String_Trios,_Op.9_BH_Werke_fs.pdf)
  - Opus 9 was dedicated to Count Johann Georg von Browne, who Johannes Büel called a man of "weakness and depravity." The material taken from this trio provides a standard melodic phrase in sentence structure, making it particularly evocative of the classical era and also unremarkable. The measures taken from the trio are mm. 3-6 and correspond to mm. 5-12 and mm. 32-39 in this piece.
4. Clive, Peter. Beethoven and His World: a biographical dictionary. New York: Oxford University Press. 60.
  - This book gives quotes from Beethoven's friend Johannes Büel concerning Count Johann Georg von Brown, calling him a man of "weakness and depravity" and the "most intelligent fool I have ever known."
5. "Cowboy Emoji Clip Art." Accessed September 1, 2020.  
<https://www.uihere.com/free-cliparts/face-with-tears-of-joy-emoji-t-shirt-iphone-clip-art-cowboy-1805696>
6. Ives, Charles. "Piano Sonata No. 2 (Concord Sonata), "The Alcotts." Imslp.net. Accessed September 1, 2020.  
<https://ks.imslp.net/files/imglnks/usimg/1/18/IMSLP53902-PMLP09680-Ives-ConcordSonata1921.pdf>
  - The musical material at mm. 14-15 in this piece are directly taken from the first system on pg. 54 of Ives' sonata, which quotes the opening motive from Beethoven's 5th Symphony.
7. Kagel, Mauricio. Ludwig Van. Found at Ubu.com. Accessed September 1, 2020.  
[http://www.ubu.com/film/kagel\\_ludwig.html](http://www.ubu.com/film/kagel_ludwig.html)
  - Borrowed from this film is the practice of randomly speaking words that begin with the letter B, which informs much of the word choice throughout this piece.
8. Nono, Luigi and Friedrich Hölderlin. *Fragmente-Stille an Diotima*. Milano: Ricordi.
  - The viola and violin notes at the beginning of measure 13 are explicitly modeled on the long fermata G#s on the first page of Nono's work. *Fragmente-Stille an Diotima* was commissioned by and written for the Beethovenfest in Bonn.
9. Wikipedia. "Beethoven (film)." Wikipedia.com. Accessed September 1, 2020.
  - Taken directly from this page is the quote, "In 1993, The Humane Society of the United States nominated Beethoven for best feature film."
10. Wikipedia. "Beethoven's 2nd (film)." Wikipedia.com. Accessed September 1, 2020.
  - Taken from this page is the description of the movie Beethoven's 2nd, which is combined with the Wikipedia description for Beethoven's Symphony No. 2, found below. This is the complete quote. "Beethoven's 2nd is a 1993 American family film directed by Rod Daniel, and starred Charles Grodin, Bonnie Hunt, and Debi Mazar, and is the second of eight installments in the Beethoven film series." Additionally taken from this page, is the tagline for the film "The Newton family is going to the dogs," which is changed to the Von Browne family in this piece.
11. Wikipedia. "Symphony No. 2 (Beethoven)." Wikipedia.com. Accessed September 1, 2020.
  - Taken from this page is the first two sentences of the symphony's description, which is combined with the description for the movie Beethoven's 2nd, which is quoted in citation 9 in full. This is the original quote from the Symphony No. 2 page in its entirety. "The Symphony No. 2 in D major, Op. 36, is a symphony in four movements written by Ludwig van Beethoven between 1801 and 1802. The work is dedicated to Karl Alois, Prince Lichnowski."
12. Wikiquote. "George Grove." Wikiquote.org. Accessed September 1, 2020.  
[https://en.wikiquote.org/wiki/George\\_Grove](https://en.wikiquote.org/wiki/George_Grove)
  - "Another equally true saying of Schumann is that, compared with Beethoven, Schubert is as a woman to a man. For it must be confessed that one's attitudes towards him is almost always that of sympathy, attraction, and love, rarely that of embarrassment or fear. Here and there only, as in the Rosamund B minor Entr'acte, or the Finale of the 10th symphony, does he compel his listeners with an irresistible power; and yet how different is this compulsion from the strong, fierce, merciless coercion, with which Beethoven forces you along, and bows and bends you to his will." This is the full quote by Sir George Grove comparing Schumann and Beethoven's. In this piece, it is intentionally misattributed to Charles Grodin. The quote, according to the website, was taken from the book *Beethoven, Schubert, Mendelssohn*.
13. "25 Bible Verses About Anger of God, Consequences." Knowing-jesus.com. Accessed September 1, 2020.  
[http://ks4.imslp.net/files/imglnks/usimg/f/fb/IMSLP313400-PMLP102967-LvBeethoven\\_3\\_String\\_Trios,\\_Op.9\\_BH\\_Werke\\_fs.pdf](http://ks4.imslp.net/files/imglnks/usimg/f/fb/IMSLP313400-PMLP102967-LvBeethoven_3_String_Trios,_Op.9_BH_Werke_fs.pdf)
  - This website provided the quote from Exodus 15:7, "And in the greatness of Your excellence You overthrow those who rise up against You; You send forth Your burning anger, and it consumes them as chaff," which is modified at the end of the quote in this piece.
14. Schumman, Robert. "Fantasie in C Major, Op. 17, Mvmt. I." <https://ks.imslp.net/files/imglnks/usimg/2/25/IMSLP51541-PMLP02776-RS55.pdf>
  - The viola melody beginning in m. 21 is a quote of Schumann's quote of Beethoven's song "An die ferne geliebt." This melody is found in mm. 297-300 in Schumman's work.

# Heiliger Dankgesang an die Gottheit

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**Section 1: Solemnly** (♩ = 40)

Violin: *sotto voce*  
Viola: *sotto voce*  
Cello: *sotto voce*

“Before anyone else” (prayerfully)

**Section 2: G.P.** (♩ = 100)

Violin: *mf*  
Viola: *mf*  
Cello: *mf*

“For a man of weakness and depravity” (proudly)  
“The Von Browne family is going to the dogs” (with disappointment)  
“Beethoven’s music is universal. No matter where in the world it speaks to all people.” (with total conviction)

Ba-ren-boim Bern - stein    Brahms Bon-nie Hunt Bü-el    Ba-ren-boim Bern-stein    Brahms  
(quietly muttering)

**Section 3: senza misura**

Violin: *pp* (t.s.b.p.f.) (matter-of-factly)  
Viola: *pp* col legno battuto (improvise rhythm)  
Cello: *pp* (improvise rhythm)

“Beethoven’s 2nd is an 1897 American family symphony in four movements directed by Ludwig van Daniel. Starring George Grove, Bonnie Hunt, and Debi Mazar it was dedicated to Karl Alois, Prince Lichnowski”

Thank you No- no    Thank you Schu- bert    Thank you Ka- gel    Thank you Hoff- man

Ba- ren boim Bern- stein Brahms

**Section 4: senza misura**

Violin: *p* (t.s.b.p.f.) (exasperated)  
Viola: *p*  
Cello: *p* (informatively)

“Roll over!” (exasperated)  
“My little bumblebee. My little bumblebay” (wistfully)  
“Thank you!” (as if accepting an award)  
“Thanks!” (maniacally happy)

“In 1993, The Humane Society of the United States nominated Beethoven for best feature film.”

accompany spoken text (♩ = c. 100) (very expressive)

“Another equally true saying of Schumann is that, compared with Beethoven, Schubert is, as a woman to a man. For it must be confessed that one’s attitudes towards him is almost always that of sympathy, attraction, and love, rarely that of embarrassment or fear.”

“bumble” “bay” “bee” “Barenboim” “Beet”  
“Bernstein” “Bear” “burn” “bill” “boy”

(Synchronize)

**Section 5: (♩ = 100)**

Violin: *p*  
Viola: *f*  
Cello: *f*

“Sir Charles Grodin” (proudly)  
“you overthrow those who rise up against you” (militaristic)  
“and in the greatness of your excellence” (with religious fanaticism)  
“you send forth your burning anger” (stone-faced)

“Yet how different is this compulsion from the strong, fierce, merciless coercion with which Beethoven forces you along and bows and bends you to his will.” (matter-of-factly)

“Thank you Bay!” (happily)  
“And you become the God” (transfixed)  
“And you become the Dog” (transfixed)