

Mozart notes....

Mozart was in his early twenties when he composed his Vespers in 1779-80 and already he was chafing under the restrictions of his role as court musician in Salzburg. He had seen too much of the outside world to want to settle down indefinitely under the stern rule of his patron, Hieronymus Colloredo, the city's prince-archbishop. The final, explosive break between the two men did not come until the middle of 1781, but this composition was among the last Mozart wrote for Salzburg

It is uncertain when this piece first was performed. Recent scholarship suggest that since Colloredo's Christian name was Hieronymus, or Jerome, the work may have been prepared for his name day celebration and first presented on September 30, 1780, the feast of St. Jerome.

The conciseness of the composition reflects Colloredo's insistence that liturgical settings be brief and that the music never dominate the text. There are six movements to the work. the Chorale is singing three of the six. *Dixit Dominus* consists of homophonic choral writing with solo episodes. The much loved *Laudate Dominum*, a soprano aria with a simple flowing melody follows, and *Laudate Pueri* a spirited fugue which uses a variety of contrapuntal compositional devices brings the work to a close.

Judy S. Drotleff