

The Birth of the Motet: The Clausula Dominus



This is a so-called “substitute clausula,” a clausula that can take the place of the clausula DOMINUS in the two-part organum *Viderunt omnes*. It comes from a large section in F that contains heaps of substitute clausulas, all of which are alternative to the clausulas in the section of organa dupla.



This is the same music as in the left picture. The source (Munich, Staatsbibliothek MS Gallo-Rom 42) served as binding material in a later book, until it was retrieved by musicologists.

What you see here is also a piece that could take the place of the clausula *Dominus* in *Viderunt omnes*. Except that it is texted, though is entirely suitable for performance in church. It incorporates several words from the plainchant (see over).

A clausula is called a motet when it has text. That is what *motet* literally means. The French word for ‘word’ is *mot*, and a ‘little word’ is called *motet*. The title of this motet is *Factum est salutare*/DOMINUS. It quotes the first words of both parts, with a slash / to separate them.

The Early Motet:

Factum est salutare / Dominus

The musical score is written in 12/8 time and consists of three systems of two staves each. The first system contains the lyrics: FA-CTUM EST SA-LU-TA-RE CON-SPE-CTU NO-TUM GEN-TI-UM a re-ge mun-dus Ce-sa-re de-scri-bi-tur, fa-ctor o-mni-um rex na-sci-tur sal-ua-re quod pe-ri-it er-go La-za-re post tri-du-um iam com-pa-re tar-da-re ni-mis fa-tu-um sa-na-re quar-tum mor-tu-um num-quam uo-lu-it DO-MI-[NUS]. The notation includes various note values such as quarter, eighth, and sixteenth notes, along with rests and bar lines.

The LORD has made SALVATION KNOWN
IN THE SIGHT OF THE NATIONS.

The world established by king Caesar.

The king, maker of all things, is born,

to save what has perished,

for Lazarus now to appear, after three days,

to linger is pointless:

the LORD has never wanted to heal the fourth of the dead.