

Christe Adoramus Te

Claudio Monteverdi (1567-1643)

Without doubt, Monteverdi was the greatest of the Italian composers of the late Renaissance and early Baroque period. He revolutionised the music of the theatre and the church through his dramatic and imaginative use of instruments and voices, and by the extraordinary daring of his harmonies. Though Monteverdi was not the first to compose operas, his *Orfeo* (1607) is credited as the first truly dramatic example. In 1613 he was appointed to the prestigious post of *Maestro di Cappella* at St. Mark's, Venice. He remained there until his death in 1643, devoting his time to directing the choir and composing a series of wonderful sacred pieces which spread his fame throughout Europe.

The text of this powerful motet is that for the feast of the Holy Cross. It is thought that it was written to mark the occasion in 1618 when a fragment of what was believed to be the true cross was unearthed by workmen excavating in St Mark's. It is remarkable for its daring chromaticism and intense expressiveness.

© John Bawden

*Jesu, Saviour, to thy name we pray. Lo, we adore thee and bless thee,
who by thy holy cross and Passion hast redeemed us sinners.
Lord, we pray, look on us in mercy.*

TO THOSE USING THESE NOTES

You are more than welcome to use all or part of these notes for your choral society or church programme, or for educational purposes. Please would you ensure that my authorship is attributed, and would you also kindly advise me by e-mail - info@directoryofchoralmusic.co.uk. If you wish to use these notes for commercial reproduction, e.g. a CD or DVD liner, please contact me first. Thank you.