

Tu es Petrus

Giovanni Perluigi da Palestrina (1525 – 1594)

This motet is a fine example of Palestrina's more robust style of writing. The piece is in fact a linked pair of motets, scored for six-part unaccompanied choir (sopranos and basses are divided) used in a variety of vocal combinations. He later used the piece as the basis of an elaborate mass for three choirs. The text is that for the feast of St Peter and St Paul, and must have held particular significance for him as the *Maestro di Capella* at St Peter's Basilica.

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Tu es Petrus et super hanc petram ædificabo ecclesiam meam; et portæ inferi non prævalebunt adversus eam.	<i>Thou art Peter, and on this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.</i>
Et tibi dabo claves regni cælorum.	<i>And to thee I will give the keys to the kingdom of heaven.</i>
Quodcumque ligaveris super terram, erit ligatum et in caelis;	<i>Whatever thou hast bound on earth, it shall also be bound in the heavens;</i>
et quodcumque solveris super terram erit solutum et in caelis.	<i>and whatever thou hast freed on earth it shall also be freed in the heavens.</i>
Et tibi dabo claves regni caelorum.	<i>And to thee I will give the keys to the kingdom of heaven</i>