

**THE VOYAGE OF COLUMBUS (REISE DES  
COLUMBUS); CANTATA (IN SIX NIGHT-  
SCENES) FOR MALE  
VOICES (SOLO AND CHORUS) WITH  
ORCHESTRAL ACCOMPT. WORDS  
(ENGLISH AND GERMAN) AND MUSIC**

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The Voyage of Columbus (Reise des Columbus); cantata (in six night-scenes) for male voices (solo and chorus) with orchestral accompt. Words (English and German) and music by Dudley Buck

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**DUDLEY BUCK**

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CANTATA (in six night-scenes)

for  
MALE VOICES (Solo and Chorus)  
with  Orchestral Accompt.

WORDS (English and German) and MUSIC  
by

**DUDLEY BUCK.**

Piano Score. Pr.  
Separate Vocal Parts  
in German only.

Orchestral Score.  
Orchestral Parts.

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# THE VOYAGE OF COLUMBUS.

## Scene I. In the Chapel of St. George at Palos.

*Evening. Aug. 2d, 1492.*

"The squadron being ready to put to sea, Columbus, with his officers and crew, confessed themselves to the friar, Juan Perez. They entered upon their enterprise full of awe, committing themselves to the especial guidance and protection of Heaven."  
Irving's "Columbus", Bk. II. Chap. VIII.

### The Priest.

Ye men of Spain, the time is nigh!  
A mighty undertaking stirs your souls.  
Yet ere ye leave this sacred house I fain would ask:  
Do ye, both one and all, commit to Heaven the  
guidance of your voyage —  
And, beyond human skill, put ye your trust where  
trust alone is due?  
So may the Church her blessing not withhold.

### The Mariners.

To the guidance of Heaven commit we ourselves;  
We bow the knee and adore.  
In deep contrition  
Seek we benediction,  
Thy blessing we humbly implore.  
In naught can we trust on our unknown way,  
In dangers by night, in perils by day,  
*O Mater misericordiae!*  
But in thee, in thee  
On the treacherous sea,  
*Ora, ora pro nobis.*

### The Priest.

Should unknown lands be found, with races new,  
Where ye may plant the standard of Castile,  
Will ye the Cross upbear, teaching the Faith,  
Extending wide the rule of Holy Church,  
And thus commit to Heaven the first-fruits of your  
toil?

### The Mariners.

To the guidance of Heaven commit we ourselves;  
As we voyage o'er the unknown deep,  
The Cross to upbear  
Be our constant care,  
This vow will we surely keep.  
The light of the Cross shall illumine our way  
In dangers by night, in perils by day,  
*O Mater misericordiae!*  
For in thee, in thee  
Shall our trust ever be,  
*Ora, ora pro nobis!*

### The Priest.

Then go in peace, with courage high,  
Faithful in service to your leader brave:  
The benediction of the Church go with ye all.  
Our prayers shall rise to Him who rules the sea,  
That ye, who thus implore the grace of Heaven —  
May pass in safety o'er the unknown deep,  
And safe return to home and friends again.

### The Mariners.

The blessing given — let us swift depart;  
Farewell to our dear native shore!  
No more delaying,  
The call obeying,  
Though we should return no more.  
In the early gleam of the morning gray\*  
Must our ships set forth on their perilous way.

*O Mater misericordiae!*  
But with thee, with thee  
Shall we sail o'er the sea,  
*Ora, ora pro nobis!*

On board, then, on board! raise the flag of Castile!  
The mystical West shall its secret reveal.  
On board, then, on board! up anchor! away!  
For God and Castile! soon dawneth the day!

\* "I sailed from Palos with three ships, well furnished, and with many seamen, on Friday, the 3<sup>d</sup> of Aug. 1492, half an hour before sunrise."  
Journal of Columbus.

## Scene II. On the deck of the "Santa Maria".

"Eighteen years elapsed after Columbus conceived his enterprise, before he was enabled to carry it into effect. The greater part of that time was passed in almost hopeless solicitation, poverty, and ridicule."  
Irving. Bk. II. Chap. VII.

### Columbus. (Solus.)

Eighteen long years of labor, doubt, and scorn,  
Have I sustained with hopes how oft deferred!  
But now, at last, the venture's made!  
With favoring breezes onward sped,  
Long since the land hath vanished from our sight;  
O'er Ocean's dark abyss Night's dusky veil is spread,  
Yet myriad stars keep watch and ward with me.

Triumph! the voyage is well begun!  
Triumph! we speed on our Western way!

Steadily West, from day to day,  
Will we hold our course from sun to sun.  
Ever on, ever on, though the billows roar,  
Ever on, till we reach the wished-for shore  
And the prize be won, or life be o'er;  
For Europe is left behind!\*

Blow, thou wind of the East, and prevail!  
O favoring breeze be faithful and true!  
As steadily West our course we pursue,  
Fill, O fill each fluttering sail!  
True as the needle remains to the pole,  
Though waves may dash, and waters roll —  
Be now the faith of each wavering soul,  
Who hath left his home behind.

Lord of all power and might! with Thee  
Rests our success and future fame;  
All glory to Thy holy name,  
Who rulest over land and sea!  
Calm Thou the fears which may arise  
In many a seaman's troubled mind,  
Give courage, till that land we find,  
The fabled land of smiling skies.

Triumph! the voyage is well begun!  
Triumph! we speed on our Western way!  
Steadily West, from day to day,  
Will we hold our course from sun to sun.

\* "As long as he remained within reach of Europe there was no security that, in a moment of repentance and alarm, his crew might not insist upon a return." Irving. *St. El. Chap. I.*

### Scene III. The Vesper Hymn.

"In the evening, according to the invariable custom on board the admiral's ship, the mariners sang the Vesper-Hymn to the Virgin." Irving. *St. El. Chap. IV.*

"*Ave Maris stella*,"  
Hail, thou Star of the Sea!  
"Oet Mater alma,"  
Sweet Mother, we trust in thee.

"*Atque semper Virgo*,"  
Virgin for aye remaining,  
"Fœlix coeli porta,"  
Heaven's portal now maintaining.

"*Sumens illud ave*"  
O Thou, by angel blest,  
"Gabriels ore!"  
Guard now our nightly rest.

"*Funda nos in pace*"  
Grant unto us thy peace,  
"Mutans Evæ nomen"  
When life's long toil shall cease.

### Scene IV. Discontent and Mutiny.

\*\*\* In this way they fed each other's discontent, gathering into little knots, and fomenting a spirit of mutinous opposition, \*\*\*  
Finally breaking forth into turbulent clamor. Irving. *St. El. Chap. IV.*

#### The Crew.

Come, comrades, come!  
Shadows begin to darken  
'Neath the huge foresail spreading wide o'erhead.  
Come, comrades, come!  
Now let us, whispering, hearken  
To what each one may say of this our dread.

**First Group of Sailors.**  
Over this boundless waste  
Ever we swiftly haste:  
This sea is never ending!

**Second Group.**  
Our ships are frail and weak;  
No sign of that we seek:  
We should be homeward wending!

**Third Group.**  
A mad fantastic scheme  
Doth this Columbus dream!  
This land he ne'er will find!

**Fourth Group.**  
For him shall we all perish!  
We who so dearly cherish  
The homes we've left behind!

All (with increasing excitement).  
'Tis tempting Fate!  
Let us rise in our might  
This very night,  
Ere it be too late!

Let us seize this man!  
His orders spurn!  
Let us homeward turn!  
Do it we can!

Let us rise in our might  
This very night!  
Down with Columbus!  
'Tis now agreed!  
Then swift to the deed!  
Down with Columbus!

**Columbus** (with dignity).  
What means this noise and turmoil wild,  
Unseemly in a seaman's brave?

**The Crew.**  
Enough of this mad voyage! it leads  
But to a watery grave!

**Columbus.**  
Remember well the oaths which ye have sworn,  
The duty owed to me and to Castile.

**The Crew.**  
Enough of this mad voyage! no more  
Seek we our purpose to conceal!

**Columbus.**  
O men of Spain! is this your courage bold!  
When favoring breezes waft us, day by day,  
Nearer and nearer to that land of gold,  
And all the splendors of far-famed Cathay.  
O faint of heart! not far can be that shore;  
My faith is firm! then cease ye to repine!  
Within three days perchance our voyage is o'er,  
To wealth and glory led by power divine.

**The Crew.**  
"Within three days," said he? — it is not long!  
Perchance 'twere better thus to wait.  
If he is right, then we, forsooth, are wrong,  
We fain would glory win and high estate.

III

**Columbus.**

To duty then! Subdue each servile fear!  
Think of the prize! The time is nigh at hand.

**The Crew.**

We will obey! Thy knowledge we revere.  
"Within three days" may we attain the land.

**Columbus.**

In token of obedience true,  
Yielding allegiance where 'tis due,\*  
Raise, one and all, with purpose high,  
Your ancient Spanish battle-cry,  
"God and Castile!"

**The Crew.**

God and Castile! we raise the cry,  
And swear allegiance anew,  
Trusting thy word, that land is nigh,  
With zeal we'll our course pursue.  
God and Castile!

\* There is no authority for the assertion of various historians, that Columbus, a day or two before seeing in sight of the New World, capitulated with his mutinous crew, promising, if he did not discover land within three days, to abandon the voyage. On the contrary he expressed a peremptory determination to persevere.  
Irving. Bk. III. Chap. IV.

**Scene V. "In distant Andalusia".**

**(An Officer.)**

The discontent of yesterday is quelled,  
And all obey the Admiral's command.  
Meantime the crew in silence nurse their fears,  
(And others share with them their doubt and dread.)  
While sea and sky smile on with never varying  
charm.\*

Alas! it may be but the siren's smile,  
Luring us on with zephyrs fair but false;  
The very moonlight, which illumines our path,  
Turns back my thoughts to one how far away!

**Love Song.**

In Andalusia the nightingale  
Sings, sings thro' the live-long night;  
Sings to its mate in pure delight:  
But ah me! ah, my love!  
Vanished and lost to my sight  
In distant Andalusia.

Here on the wavering deck I stand,  
Rocked, rocked by the billowy swell,  
Far from her whom I love so well.  
Ah me! ah, my love!  
To the winds my grief I tell  
Of distant Andalusia.

Softly the winds o'er this Ocean vast  
Sigh, sigh in the listening ear,  
A breath as of April in Andalusia.\*\*\*  
But ah me! ah, my love!  
I pine that thou art not here,  
Or I in Andalusia.

\* "Columbus perpetually recurs (in his journal) to the bland serenity of the weather".

\*\*\* "He compares the pure and balmy mornings to those of April in Andalusia, and observes that they wanted but the song of the nightingale to complete the illusion."

Irving. Bk. III. Chap. III.

Speed, good ship, 'neath the glittering stars!  
Haste! haste! that this voyage be o'er;  
Swiftly return to our native shore —  
Ah me! ah, my love!  
Then shall we part no more  
In distant Andalusia.

**Scene VI. Land and Thanksgiving.**

\*As the evening darkened, Columbus took his station on the top of the castle or cabin on the high poop of his vessel, ranging his eye along the horizon, and maintaining an intense and unremitting watch."

Irving. Bk. III. Chap. IV.

**Columbus.**

The night is dark, but many a sign  
Seen thro' this day proclaims the goal at hand.  
Upraised upon my caravel's high stern,  
Here will I scan the dim horizon's line,  
And thro' the silent vigils of the night maintain  
Most unremitting watch.

But ha! — is that a light  
Twinkling in distance far?  
Do not mine eyes deceive?  
It cannot be a star. —  
Ho! captain of the watch!  
Call here with speed  
Two trusty officers.  
Quick is my need!  
Don Pedro with Rodrigo hither send!<sup>(to himself)</sup>

I must have counsel what this may portend.

(Short orchestral interlude.)

**The Two Officers.**

Here at your bidding, Admiral, are we.

**Columbus.**

Quickly look forth, and tell me what ye see!  
In this direction turn your keenest sight!

**Officers.**

Señor! Señor! it is — it is a light!  
A flickering gleam in darkness night!

**Columbus.**

Are ye quite sure? Do not your eyes deceive?

**Officers.**

It cannot be! — a light we both perceive!

**Columbus.**

The morn begins to dawn,  
Soon will arise the sun.

**Officers.**

Hark! o'er the water boomed  
The Pinta's signal-gun!

**Voice of a Seaman.**

Land-ho!

**Others (taking up the cry).**

Land-ho! Land-ho

\* "Fearing his eager hopes might deceive him, he called to Pedro Gutierrez, gentleman of the king's bed chamber, and to Rodrigo Sanchez de Segovia" — etc.

Irving. Bk. III. Chap. IV.



## Columbus.

A new world breaks upon our view!  
 Upon your knees in reverence fall,  
 And raise with me your voices all  
 In prayer and grateful praise.

[The following lines are, for the most part, freely translated and verified from "a form of prayer said to have been used by Columbus at landing." "*Domine Deus, aeterna et omnipotens; exere suo verbo caelum, et terram, et mare creasti, etc.* This prayer, by order of the Castilian sovereigns, was afterwards used by Balboa, Cortez, and Pizarro in their discoveries."] Irving. Bk. IV. Chap. I.

All.

Lord God Eternal and Omnipotent!  
 Thou who the heavens, the earth, the sea

Created hast — all praise to Thee!  
 We glorify and bless Thy name,  
 To all Eternity the same,  
 Alleluia!

We thank Thee, Lord, that we, the chosen few,  
 Were worthy found to cross the troubled main;  
 To leave the Old World and to find the New,  
 And add such jewel to the crown of Spain.

Fulfilled with zeal our vow shall be,  
 To plant the Cross on virgin sod,  
 That all the ends of the world may see  
 The full salvation of our God,  
 Alleluia! Amen!

Dudley Buck.



# THE VOYAGE OF COLUMBUS.

## (Reise des Columbus)

### SCENE I.

In the chapel of St. George at Palos. (Evening Aug. 2<sup>d</sup> 1492.)

In der Capelle des Sanct Georg zu Palos. (Abends den 2<sup>ten</sup> Aug. 1492.)

Dudley Buck.

Moderato maestoso. ♩=80.      Allegro moderato. ♩=100.

PIANO.

(Trombone Solo.)  
*mf*

(Gregorian Intonation.)

NB. Wherever the rhythmic figure  
without hurrying.  
Überall wo die rhythmische Figur



occurs each note of the triplet should be "brought out"  
vorkommt, ist die Triole sehr breit vorzutragen.

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Moderato. ♩ = 80.

dim. *p* Cornet Clar. Vcello. Fag.

THE PRIEST. (Baritone Solo.) *a tempo*  
 DER PRIESTER. (Baryton Solo.)

*p* *mf*

Ye men of Spain, the time is night! A  
 Ihr Männer Spaniens, die Zeit ist da! Ein

*p*

migh-ty un-der-tak-ing stirr your souls; Yet, ere ye leave this sacred  
 mächt'ges Un-ter-nehmen euch be-seelt. Nun, beim Ver-las-sen die-ses

*p*

house, I fain would ask; Do ye, both one and  
 Tempelraum's möcht'ich wohl fra-gen: Habt ihr, die jetzt da

*cresc.*

all, commit to Heav'n the guidance of your voyage?  
 stehn, die Führung eu- -rer Fahrt dem Himmel an-vertraut?