

## A few words on "*Said to be by Me*"

### The Purpose

In finding the compositions of Thomas Roseingrave I stumbled across a collection of cathedral chants published in 1829. Having flicked through to page 15 one thing stood out to me, the chant of 1720 had the intriguing title "*(Said to be by) Thomas Roseingrave 1720*". This threw up a long list of legitimate questions including "*Who says that?*", and "*What makes them such an expert?*".

The eternal struggle that haunts anyone interested in historically informed music making is finding where to balance authenticity, practicality, and relevance.

### The Piece

*"Said to be by Me"* portrays a battle between trying to do the right thing and giving up.

I composed an organ chorale based upon the cathedral chant "*Said to be by Thomas Roseingrave 1720*" and added some vocals to it. These vocals are provided by a well-meaning choir that sing the hexachordal syllables commonly associated with renaissance polyphony. After a while the wise gremlin interrupts and explains that "we have had enough of experts" inspired by a presumably very wise politician. An overly-knowledgeable choir then take the mickey out of their counterparts by overdoing any historically informed performances practices they can think of while singing the chorale themselves with a modern organ – to the point that it sounds completely wrong.

As they battle it out, the sound of this chaos is interrupted by sirens and helicopters that may or may not depict the Historical Music Police Force\* - needless to say, nobody wins.

\* not yet an officially recognised institution at time of writing (2021)

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