

Commentary on the 'St. Cecilia' icon



Icons of St. Cecilia are rare. Most depictions do not show her in her era, of ancient Rome. Being the patron saint of musicians, she is often portrayed with a small pipe organ or stringed instruments that did not exist in her time. Although a pipe organ, similar to the portative organs of the Middle Ages, did exist, the iconographer wanted to maintain the emphasis on St. Cecilia, and not be about the organ. He instead chose to use a harp that was very common in the era.

In addition, St. Cecilia holds a parchment of Chant, with the simple notation of the time. The words are taken from Psalm –
Jubilate Deo, omnis terra;
servite Domino in lætitia.

Introite in conspectu ejus in exultatione.
(Translation: Sing joyfully to God, all the earth:
serve ye the Lord with gladness. Come in before
his presence with exceeding great joy.)

St. Cecilia is portrayed in her standing as a royal woman of her era, in the form of dress and colours used as well as the loose veil. The crown also represents her royalty.

The face of the icon is covered in 24K gold and is 11' x 14'.