

Anonymous 4 - Secret Voices

hmu 807510

Texts and Translations

Translations by Susan Hellauer

[items in brackets have been added in order to complete partial texts in the manuscript]

1. Sequence: Virgines egregie

Virgines egregie, [virgines] sacrate,
coram vestri facie sponsi coronate,
in eterna requie sursum sublimate,
canticum leticie domino cantate.

Castitatis liliu[m] olim custodistis
propter dei filium, cui placuistis;
templu[m] sancti spiritus esse voluistis,
tactus et concubitus ide[o] fugistis.

Non estis de fatuis, que cum vasis vacuis
sponsu[m] prestolantur.
Immo de prudentibus, que plenis lampadibus
bene preparantur.

Fatuis virginibus, oleo carentibus,
sponsus est dicturus:
vobis non apperiam, prudentes recipiam
premium daturus.

Amen.

Illustrious virgins, consecrated virgins,
crowned in the presence of your bridegroom,
raised on high in your eternal rest:
sing a joyful song to the lord.

Once you guarded the lily of chastity
for the son of God, whom you pleased;
you wished to be the temple of the holy spirit,
and thus you fled from touch and marriage bed.

You are not one of the foolish, with empty vessels
awaiting the bridegroom.

Instead, you are among the wise, lamps full,
and well prepared.

To the foolish virgins, lacking oil,
the bridegroom will say:
“To you I will not open up; the wise ones, I do receive
and will give them the prize.”

Amen.

2. Conductus: Ave maris stella

Ave maris stella
virgo decus virginum,
celi regis cella,
mediatrix hominum:
ne nos pereamus
ad te suspiramus
ut a nobis criminum
procul sit procella.

Hail star of the sea,
virgin, jewel of virgins,
chamber of the king of heaven,
mediator for humankind:
lest we perish,
we sigh to you,
that the tempest of sin
may be kept far from us.

3. Motet: Clastrum pudicicie/Virgo viget/FLOS FILIUS

Triplum
Clastrum pudicicie,
virginis triclinium,
spes tocius leticie,
gracie tenens privilegium,
regem glorie,
virgo filium
fac nobis propicium,

ut reys det venie
remedium.

Motetus

Virgo viget melius dum peperit,
set nature plenius ius deperit
nasci dei filius dum voluit,
coluit, qui nobis condoluit
cui cum iubilo sine termino:
benedicamus domino.

Tenor

FLOS FILIUS

Respond: [Deo dicamus gracias.]

Triplum

Cloister of modesty, seat of virginity,
hope of all happiness,
holding the privilege of grace
of the king of glory:
virgin, make your son merciful to us,
that he may forgive our sins.

Motetus

The virgin gave birth without pain,
defying the law of nature
while giving birth to a son
who freely suffered for us,
to whom we say with endless rejoicing:
Let us bless the Lord.

Tenor

FLOS FILIUS

Respond: [Let us say: "Thanks be to God!"]

4. Discant: Fa fa mi / Ut re mi

Duplum

[F]a fa mi fa mi re mi
ut mi sol re mi ut fa fa
fa re fa fa re ut re mi ut re mi.

Est fatuum spernere
quia musicalia
teste philosophia
quam sancti tradidere.

Tenor

[U]t re mi ut re mi
ut mi re fa mi sol fa la
sol ut fa fa.

Et huiusmodi cetera voce resonare
vos virgines cartucensis,
moniales deaurate,
ad hec apte quia nate
organizare curate
[philosophia quam sancti tradidere.]

Duplum

Fa fa mi fa mi re mi
ut mi sol re mi ut fa fa
fa re fa fa re ut re mi ut re mi.
It is foolish to despise these
because they are the elements of music
according to the wisdom
which the holy ones have handed down.

Tenor

Ut re mi ut re mi
ut mi re fa mi sol fa la
sol ut fa fa.
Sing out these and other such things,
you cloistered virgins,
golden nuns:
you are fitted for this
because you were born to cultivate polyphony,
[the wisdom which the holy ones have handed down].

5. Conductus-Motet: O Maria virgo/O maria maris stella/[IN VERITATE]

Quadruplum:

O maria virgo davitica
virginum flos vite spes unica,
via venie,
lux gracie,
mater clemencie:
sola iubes in arce celica
obediunt tibi milicie;
sola sedes in trono glorie
gracia plena, fulgens, deica.
Stelle stupent de tua specie;
sol, luna de tua potencia
que luminaria
in meridie.
Tua facie vincis omnia.
Prece pia mitiga filium,
miro modo cuius es filia,
ne iudicemur in contrarium
set eterne vite premia.

Triplum & Motetus

O Maria maristella,
plena gracie,
mater simul et puella,
vas mundicie;

templum nostri redemptoris,
sol iusiticie,
porta celi, spes reorum,
tronus glorie;

sublevatrix miserorum,
vena venie:
audi servos te rogantes
mater gracie,

ut peccata sint abluta
per te hodie
qui te puro laudant corde

in veritate.

Tenor

[IN VERITATE]

Quadruplum

O Mary, virgin of David's race,
flower of virgins, only hope of life,
way of forgiveness,
light of grace,
mother of mercy:
you alone in heaven's arch command
the legions obedient to you;
you sit alone on the throne of glory
glowing full of godly grace;
the stars are stunned by your beauty,
and by your power the sun and moon
and other lights
on the meridian;
your countenance conquers all.
By your pious prayer soften your son,
whose daughter you are by miraculous means,
that we may not be judged to hell,
but to the prize of eternal life.

Triplum and Motetus

O Mary, star of the sea,
full of grace,
both mother and daughter,
vessel of modesty;

temple of our salvation,
sun of justice,
gate of heaven, hope of sinners,
throne of glory;

supporter of the wretched,
vein of forgiveness:
hear your children pleading,
mother of grace,

that our sins may be washed away
through you today,
who praise you with pure heart
and in sincerity.

Tenor

[IN VERITATE]

6. Benedicamus domino: cum cantico

Benedicamus domino cum cantico,
cum iubilo, cum cordis et organo,
cum psalterio, cum tripudio, cum celesti gaudio.

Respond: [Deo dicamus gracias.]

Let us bless the lord with song,
with shouts of joy, with strings and organ,
with psaltery, with dancing, with heavenly rejoicing.

Respond: [Let us say: "Thanks be to God!"]

7. Motet: Salve porta/Salve salus/Salve sancta parens

plainchant incipit

[Salve sancta parens . . .]

Triplum

Salve porta
regni glorie,
lux gracie,
vas prudencie,
regina clemencie,
thalamus mundicie:
salve.

Motetus

Salve salus gencium
maria fidelium,
spes errantium

et consilium,
vite premium:
salve.

Tenor

Salve sancta parens. [Salve.]

plainchant incipit

[Hail holy mother . . .]

Triplum

Hail gate
of the kingdom of glory,
light of grace,
vessel of prudence,
queen of mercy,
bridal chamber of purity:
Hail!

Motetus

Hail salvation of the people
of faith, Mary,
hope of sinners,
and their consolation,
prize of life:
Hail!

Tenor

Hail holy mother.

8. Kirie: Rex virginum amator

Rex virginum amator deus marie decus, eleyson.

Kirie [e]leyson.

[*Salvificet pietas tua, nos bone rector, eleyson.*

Fons et origo bone pie luxque perhennis, eleyson.]

Christe dei splendor virtus patrisque sophya, eleyson.

[Christe eleyson.]

*[Plasmatis humanis factor lapsis reparator, eleyson.
Ne tua dampnatur jhesu factura benigne, eleyson.]*

*Amborum sacrum spiramen nexus amorque, eleyson.
Kirie eleyson.*

*[Procedens fomes vite fons purificans vis, eleyson.
Indultor culpe venie largitor optime
offensas dele sacro nos munere reple,
spiritus alme, eleyson.]*

*King and lover of the virgins,
God, honor of Mary: have mercy.
Lord have mercy.*

*[Who from royal stock produced illustrious Mary, eleyson.
Accept her worthy prayers for the whole wide world, eleyson.]*

*Christ, splendor of God,
the father's strength and wisdom: have mercy.
Christ have mercy.*

*[Creator of humankind, savior of those who fall, have mercy.
Kind Jesus, do not let your creation be damned, have mercy.]*

*Sacred spirit, breath of both, with love conjoined, have mercy.
Kindling of life's flame, purifying fount, have mercy.
Lord have mercy*

*[Forgiver of sin, greatest giver of pardon,
remove our offenses, fill us with a holy reward, have mercy.
Kind spirit, have mercy.]*

9. Gloria: Spiritus et alme

Gloria in excelsis deo,
et in terra pax hominibus bone voluntatis.

[Laudamus te; benedicimus te; adoramus te; glorificamus te. Gracias agimus tibi propter magnam gloriam tuam: domine deus, rex celestis, deus pater omnipotens, domine fili unigenite jesu christe,]

Spiritus et alme orphanorum paraclite,

[domine deus agnus dei filius patris]

primogenitus marie, virginis matris.

[qui tollis peccata mundi, miserere nobis. Qui tollis peccata mundi, suscipe deprecationem nostram,]

ad marie gloriam.

[Qui sedes ad dexteram patris, miserere nobis. Quoniam tu solus sanctus]

mariam santificans,

[tu solus dominus,]

mariam gubernans,

[tu solus altissimus]

mariam coronans,

ihesu christe

cum sancto spiritu in gloria dei [patris. Amen.]

Glory to God in the highest

and on earth peace to men of good will.

[We praise you; we bless you; we adore you;
we glorify you. We give thanks to you because
of your great glory: lord god, king of heaven,
God the father omnipotent, only-begotten
lord, Jesus Christ;]

holy spirit, loving protector of orphans;

[lord God, lamb of God, son of God the father,]

firstborn of Mary, virgin mother,

[you who take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us. You who take away the sins of the world, accept our prayer,]

for the glory of Mary.

[You who sit at the right hand of the father, have mercy on us. For you alone are holy,]

sanctifying Mary,

[you alone are lord,]

ruling over Mary,

[you alone are most high,]

crowning Mary,

Jesus Christ,

with the holy spirit in the glory of God

[the father. Amen.]

10. Sequence: Verbum bonum et suave

Verbum bonum et suave
personemus, illud ave
per quod christi fit conclave
virgo mater filia.

Per quod ave salutata
mox concepit fecundata
virgo david stirpe nata
inter spinas lilia.

Ave veri salomonis
mater, vellus gedeonis,
cuius magi tribus donis
laudant puerperium.

Ave solem genuisti;
ave prolem protulisti.
Mundo lapsa contulisti
vitam et imperium.

Ave sponsa verbi sumi,
maris portus, signum dumi,
aromatum virga fumi,
angelorum domina.

Supplicamus nos emenda;
emendatos nos commenda
tuo nato ad habenda
sempiterna gaudia.

Amen.

Let us ever sound that “ave,”
the good and sweet word
through which Christ dwelt within
virgin, mother and daughter.

Greeted with that “ave”
she soon became fertile,

the virgin of David's lineage,
a lily among the thorns.

Hail, true Solomon's
mother, fleece of Gideon,
whose childbirth the magi
honored with three gifts.

Hail, you have borne the sun;
hail, you have borne a son.
You brought life and power
to the fallen world.

Hail, bride of the highest word,
sea harbor, sign of the burning bush,
aromatic smoking branch,
mistress of the angels.

We pray you to put us right,
and being put right commend us
to your son, so that we might have
everlasting joys.
Amen.

11. Motet: Salve virgo regia/Ave gloriosa mater/[DOMINO]

Triplum

Salve virgo regia,
mater clemencie,
virgo plena graciae,
regina glorie,
genitrix egregie
prolis eximie,
que sedes in gloria
celestis curie.

Regis celi regie,
mater et filia,
casta pudicie
stellaque previa,
in trono iusticie

residens obvia
agmina milicie
celestis omnia.

Occurrunt leticie
tibi que previa
cantica leticie
tam multifaria.
Tu tante potencie,
tante victorie
forme tam egregie
mater ecclesie.

Lux mundicie
genitrix que pia,
obediunt tibi celestia
celi luminaria.
Stupefiunt de tua specie
sol et luna
cunctaque
polorum sidera.

Virgo regens supera,
te laudant angeli
super ethera.
Ave cleri tutum presidium,
pauperisque verum subsidium.
Tu es pura
luna iusticie.

Tu genitrix gracie
peccatorum vite
refugium, egrotantium
solabile solacium.
Nobis post obitum
post istius seculi vite vilis transitum
per graciam, non per meritum,
ducas nos ad patrem et filium.

Motetus

Ave gloriosa
mater salvatoris.

Ave preciosa
virgo flos pudoris.

Ave lux iacosa,
talamus pudoris.
Ave preciosa
salus peccatoris.

Ave vite via
casta, munda, pura,
dulcis, mitis, pia,
felix creatura.

Parens modo miro
nova paritura
virum sine viro
contra legis iura.

Virgo virginum,
expers criminum,
decus luminum,
celi domina,

salus gencium,
spes fidelium,
lumen cordium
nos illumina.

Nosque filio
tuo tam pio
tam propicio
reconcilia,

et ad gaudia
nos perhemnia
dant prece pia,
virgo maria.

Tenor
[DOMINO]

Triplum

Hail royal virgin:
mother of mercy
virgin full of grace,
glorious queen,
bearer of the illustrious
and most high offspring,
you who sit in the glory
of the heavenly court.

Both mother and daughter,
of the king of kings in heaven,
stronghold of purity,
greatest of the stars,
on the throne of justice
you sit in sight of
the gathered might
of all heaven.

The joyful join together
and to you they present
joyful songs
of many kinds:
so powerful,
so triumphant,
so beautiful,
and mother of the church.

Light of purity,
and pious mother:
obedient to you are the highest
lights of the heavens;
stunned by your beauty,
are the sun and moon
and all other things
in the heavenly realm.

Virgin, you reign above all,
the angels praise you
above the ether.
Hail, of clerics
the sure protector,
and true supporter of the poor.
You are the chaste
moon of justice.

You mother of grace,
and for sinners
the refuge of life,
great consoler of those in need:
[help] us after death,
after we pass through these vile times,
and by grace, not by our merit,
lead us to the father through the son.

Motetus

Hail glorious
mother of the savior.
Hail, most precious
virgin, flower of modesty.

Hail joyful light,
bridal chamber of modesty,
Hail most precious
salvation of the sinner.

Hail way of life,
chaste, clean, pure,
sweet, mild, pious,
happy creature.

Parent by miraculous means,
in a new way bore
a man without a man

against the laws of the flesh.

Virgin of virgins,
without sin,
splendor of light,
queen of heaven,

Salvation of all peoples,
hope of the faithful,
light for the heart:
illuminate us!

And with your son,
most piously,
most propitiously,
reconcile us,

And to the joy
that is eternal
lead us, by your pious prayer,
Virgin Mary.

Tenor

[DOMINO]

12. Sanctus & Benedictus

Sanctus, sanctus, sanctus
dominus deus sabaoth:
pleni sunt celi et terra gloria tua.
Hosanna in excelsis.
Benedictus qui venit in nomine domini.

Hosanna in excelsis.

Holy, holy, holy
lord, God of hosts:
heaven and earth are filled with your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the lord.
Hosanna in the highest.

13. Motet: Gaude virgo nobilis/Verbum caro factum/ET VERITATE

Triplum

Gaude virgo nobilis maria,
virgo venerabilis et pia
que genuisti regem omnium.

Salve virgo sola spes fidelium,
Salve virgo regia. Salve virgo virginum,
salus hominum, lux luminum.
O spes unica: filium filia
mittiga, virgo plena gracia.

Motetus

Verbum caro factum est
et habitavit in nobis,
cuius gloriam vidimus
quasi unigeniti a patre,
plenum graciae et veritatis.
Ergo nostra conscio
subpremo benedicat domino.

Tenor

ET VERITATE

Triplum

Rejoice noble virgin, Mary,
worshipful and pious,
who brought forth the king of creation.

Hail unique virgin, hope of the faithful.
Hail virgin queen; hail virgin of virgins,
salvation of mankind, light of lights.

Our only hope, o daughter,
soften your son [toward us], virgin full of grace.

Motetus

The word was made flesh
and dwelt among us,
whose glory we see
as the only-begotten of the father,
full of grace and truth.
Thus let our assembly
bless the supreme lord.

Tenor

ET VERITATE

14. Agnus dei: Gloriosa spes reorum

[Agnus dei, qui tollis peccata mundi,]
Gloriosa spes reorum,
virgo, morem instrue.
O maria, virgo florum,
iugi stillam difflue
[miserere nobis.]

[Agnus dei qui tollis peccata mundi,]
Mundans lepram viciorum
hostis fraudes dissue,
Nos virtute beans morum
luto servos ablue.
[miserere nobis.]

[Agnus dei qui tollis peccata mundi,]

*Virgo tutrix pupillorum
mentis sordes exue,
a contactu peccatorum
circumventos erue.*
[dona nobis pacem.]

[Lamb of God, you who take away the sins of the world]
*Glorious hope of sinners,
virgin, teach us by your example.
O Mary, virgin flower,
free all from slavery.*
[have mercy on us.]

[Lamb of god, you who take away the sins of the world,]
*Cleansing the disease of vice,
undo the deceits of the enemy.
Blessing us with the practice of virtue,
wash away the filth from your servants.*
[have mercy on us.]

[Lamb of God, you who take away the sins of the world,]
*Virgin, teacher of your students,
remove the filth from our minds.
From the touch of sin
disentangle those who stray.*
[grant us peace.]

15. Planctus: O monialis conscio

O monialis conscio burgenssis,
plange filiam
tributo dato proprio,
amittens hanc innoxiam;
set plaude pro victoria
dum fulgens hec in gloria.

O assembly of the nuns of Burgos:
mourn your daughter
with fitting tribute,
having lost this innocent one;
but applaud her victory
for she shines in glory.

16. Benedicamus domino: Belial vocatur

Quadruplum, Triplum & Motetus

Belial vocatur
diffusa calliditas
muse dominantur
militantis novitas.
Benedictus exitus
nesciens errorem.
Decorus introitus
conferens amorem.
Mensus ulnis simeonis
dominator omnium
miratur infusionis
natura officium.
O . . . O . . . O . . .
Benedicamus domino.

Tenor

[TENOR]

Respond: [Deo gracias.]

Quadruplum, Triplum & Motetus

Sly cunning is everywhere,
and his name is called Belial.
He is lord and master over
the newer art of war.

Happy is the going out
that knows no error;
beautiful is the coming in
that bestows love.

He who was held in the arms of Simeon
is the lord of all things:
nature marvels
at this [divine] co-mingling.

O . . . O . . . O . . .
Let us bless the Lord.

Tenor
[TENOR]

Respond: [Let us say: “Thanks be to God!”]

17. Sequence: In virgulto graciae

In virgulto graciae
arbor pudicitiae
radices peregit.

Circumsepta surculis,
exornatur flosculis
quos excultor legit.

Virgultum ecclesia,
dei sapientia
quam replet doctrina.

Circumductus surculus
vivens una populus
sub lege divina.

Virginalis concio

i[n] nitoris pallio
decus signat florum.

Flores legit ortuli
christus, auctor seculi
et rex angelorum.

Supplicemus igitur
regi per quem regitur
omnis status rey,

ut in orto glorie
fructus coram facie
nos metamus dei.

Amen.

In the garden of grace,
a tree of modesty
put down roots.

And all around its branches
it was decorated with flowers
which the (divine) gardener selected.

The garden is the church
and the wisdom of God
fills it with its teachings.

Around its branches
lives a people
under divine law.

The beauty of the flowers
is the assembly of virgins
clad in gleaming white mantles.*

These flowers were picked
by Christ, creator of the ages
and king of the angels.

Let us therefore implore
the king through whom is
governed every thing,

that in the garden of glory
we may harvest its fruits
before the face of God.

Amen.

*Cistercians wore white habits.

18. Motet: Ave regina celorum/Alma redemptoris mater/[ALMA]

Triplum:

Ave regina celorum.

Ave domina angelorum.

Salve radix sancta

ex qua mundo lux est orta.

Gaude gloriosa

super omnes speciosa.

Vale valde decora

et pro nobis semper

christum exora.

Motetus:

Alma redemptoris mater que previa celi porta

manens et stella maris: succurre cadenti

surgere qui curat populo, tu que genuisti,

natura mirante, tuum santum genitorem.

Virgo prius ac posterius, gabrielis ab ore

sumens ilud ave: peccatorum miserere.

Tenor

[ALMA]

Triplum:

Hail queen of the heavens,
hail mistress of the angels,
hail holy root
from whom sprang the light of the world.

Rejoice, glorious one,
lovely above all others;
hail, most noble,
and ever for us
pray to Christ.

Motetus

Loving mother of the redeemer, ever the gate of heaven
and star of the sea, assist your fallen
people who strive to rise. You who bore
your holy creator, to the amazement of nature,
and remained a virgin after as before, accepting
Gabriel's "Ave!" -- have pity on us poor sinners.

Tenor

[ALMA]

19. Benedicamus domino: rondellus à 3

Benedicamus domino.
Deo dicamus gracias.

Let us bless the lord.
Let us say "Thanks be to God!"

20. Song: Si vocatus ad nuptias

Si vocatus ad nuptias,
advenias
sine veste nuptiali,
a curia regali
expelleris,
et obviam si veneris
sponso lampade vacua,
es quasi virgo fatua.

If, called to the wedding,
you arrive
without a wedding garment,
then from the royal court
you will be expelled;
and if you go to meet
the bridegroom with an empty lamp
you are like a foolish virgin.

21. Conductus: Mater patris et filia

Mater patris et filia mulierum leticia
stella maris eximia: audi nostra suspiria.
Regina poli curie mater misericordie
in hac valle miserie sis reis porta venie.
Per tuum virgo filium confer nobis remedium.
Bone fili prece matris perduc nos ad regna patris.

Mother and daughter of the father, joy of women,
gleaming star of the sea: hear our sighs.
Queen of heaven's realm, mother of mercy:
in this vale of misery be the door to grace for sinners.
Virgin, bring us relief through your son.
Good son, lead us to the father's kingdom by your mother's prayer.

22. Benedicamus domino: à 2

Benedicamus domino.

Respond: [Deo dicamus gracias.]

Let us bless the lord.

Respond: [Let us say: “Thanks be to God!”]

23. Song: Omnium in te christe

Omnium in te christe credencium
terge sordes mencium,
ut hac nocte prava hoste exeamus
et securi summo mane surgamus.

[Amen.]

For all of us who believe in you, Christ,
wash our souls clean of depravity,
so that this night we may escape the vicious enemy
and arise serenely on the last morning.

[Amen.]