Notre-Dame and Related Conductus

Part 9

Three-Part Conductus in Related Sources

Transcribed and Edited by

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B 4: 4-part Conductus

O 1-O 54: 3-part Conductus in Related Sources







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3pt Conductus transmitted in Related Sources

The contents of this volume issue mainly from English sources, and thus these transcriptions present an excellent opportunity to compare English musical style with that of the Continent as represented in the earlier volumes of 3pt works in this series. The most prominent aspects of the English style may be summarized as the almost constant use of parallel triads in root position or first inversion, with the result that English works are much more sonorous than Continental although the individual voices are less independent; the frequent use of short repeated tenor segments, particularly in the melismatic sections; and the frequent use of rondellus techniques. In general, the texts do not provide the range of interest of their Continental counterparts, as they consist predominantly of stereotyped Marian verse, while allegory and typology are almost entirely absent.

Many of the pieces are extant only in fragmentary state, but every effort has been made to present complete sections, so that performance will be possible; to achieve this aim some conjecture of both text and music has been necessary, and the editor believes that consistency of style has been maintained in these sections. In particular, the editor has tried to present a clear and sensible Latin text.

Much of the preliminary work on this volume was completed during a year of sabbatical leave spent in Central Europe in 1979, and I wish to thank the Council of the University of New England for making this possible, as well as the many friends and colleagues in Europe who freely gave me so much friendship, help, and encouragement. I also thank the Australian Research Grants Committee for continued support of this project.

Texts and Translations

B 4; Stary sacz, Fragm. 1.

I.		Omnia beneficia	[These are] all the services
		Gaudia	Producing
		generantia	various
	5	Varia,	Joys.
		que dat gratia,	which grace gives,
		Dulcia	Eliciting
		movens studia,	sweet desires
		Laudare Deum	To praise God,
	10	Qui salvat reum	Who saves the sinner
		Data venia.	By his pardon given.
II.		Sapui,	I have tasted
		sicut fatui,	of foolishness,
	15	Nam cui	For to it
		[potens adfui];	I was wholly attached;
		Posui	I have abjured it,
		[autem] nutui	however, by my will,
		Renui	And rejected it
	20	prout potui:	as far as I was able:
		Si nunc regiro,	If now I about turn,
		Non est pro miro,	It is not miraculous
		Quia sonui,	That I sing

O 1; LoA, f. 43^r.

I.		Orientis partibus	From Orient lands
		Adventavit asinus,	An ass came,
		Pulcher et fortissimus,	Handsome and strong,
		Sarcinis aptissimus.	An excellent beast of burden.
	5	Hez, [va], hez, sire asne, hez!	Hey, ho, hey, Sir Ass, and hey!
II.		Hic in collibus Sychem	In the hills of Sichem
		Iam nutritus sub Ruben,	He was raised by Reuben,
		Transiit per Iordanem,	He crossed over the Jordan
		Saliit in Bethleem.	And sped into Bethlehem.
1	10	Hez, va, hez, sire asne, hez!	Hey, ho, hey, Sir Ass, and hey!
III.		Saltu vincit hynnulos,	He leaped higher than a stag,
		Dammas et capreolos,	An antelope or chamois,
		super dromedarios	Faster than the dromedaries
		Velox Madyaneos.	From distant Media.
	15	Hez, va, hez, sire asne, hez!	Hey, ho, hey, Sir Ass, and hey!

This poem presents the ass which carried the Virgin on her flight into Egypt, and was sung on the first day after the Octave of the Three Kings. For an account of the mediæval ceremony as celebrated in Beauvais, and a study of the poem, see H. C. Greene, «The Song of the Ass,» Speculum VI (1931), pp. 534-549.

	10	Sic pre virginibus Marie virginis Splendet aureola.	Thus before all virgins Shines the halo Of the Virgin Mary.
IIa.		Quam sibi vendicat	He received her
		In templo Domini,	In the temple of the Lord, 1
		Quando benedicat	When he blessed
		[Promisso numini	The boy in his arms,
	15	Brachiis puerum.	As promised by the Holy Spirit.
IIb.		O quam splendissima	O how illustrious
		Mater est salutis,	Is the mother of salvation!
		O quam sanctissima	O how holy
		Speculum virtutis,	Is the mirror of virtue,
	20	Addecus siderum.]	The jewel among stars!

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I take this to refer to the blessing of Simeon, Luke II:25-35, and have emended and conjectured the remainder of the strophe accordingly.

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- IV. Angelus disparuit,
 Et statim puellaris
 Uterus intumuit
 Vi partus salutaris,
 Qui circumdatu: utero
 Novem mensium numero,
 Hinc exiit,
 Et iniit
 Afflictum,
 Affligens humero
 Crucem qua dedit ictum
 Hosti mortifero.
- V. Eya, mater Domini,
 Que Christum credidisti,
 Angelis et homini
 Que pacem dedidisti:
 Tuum exora filium,
 Ut se nobis propitium
 Exhibeat,
 Et deleat
 Peccata,
 Prestans auxilium,

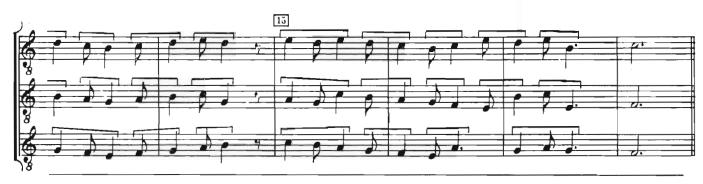
Vita frui beata

Post hoc exilium.

o 14 Flos Regalis Virginalis











O 38; Gaude, per quam gaudium.

T: B 22 om (conjecture). Du: B 15,2 uncertain (probably B); B 17,2-end notated 3rd lower. Tr: B 3,2-1, B 7,2 illeg (conjecture). Tt: greater part lost, only end remains; N. V.

Main source: Oxford, Bodleian Library, Bodley 257, N° 6, f. 195b* (only first section extant).

Secondary source: The full 50 strophes of this poem, with several Tt sources listed, are printed in *Analecta Hymnica* XXXV, pp. 227-231.

The extended measures are not shown in the MS, except at T, B 31; music from IIb, B 22 lost; variants between successive strophes are shown by upward and downward stems respectively. T: B 10,1 /. Du: N. V. Tr: Ib, B 3,2-1 cut off. IIb, B 14,2-end lost. Tt: only Str. Ia-IIb, L 14,1, underlaid to all the music completely written out. L 14,2-end lost.

O 39; Mater ora filium.

Unique source: Oxford, Bodleian Library, Rawlinson lit. d.3, N° 1, f. 71'.

This conductus-like composition is a setting of a text from the Processional, and with its two companions (O 40-O 41) are possibly not true conductus, but *versus*, precursors of the Votive Antiphon; see F. Ll. Harrison, *Music in Medieval Britain*, London, 1958, p. 295 ff. The music is notated once, with both strophes underlaid. T: B 8, B 12 / om; B 13 the B-nat (T) and B-fl (Tr) are both in the MS. Du: B 8, B 12 / om. Tr: B 8, B 12 / om; B 14 si G. Tt: Ib, L 5,3 erancium.

O 40; Virgo pudicitie.

Unique source: Oxford, Bodleian Library, Rawlinson lit. d.3, N° 2, f. 71'.

T, Du, Tr: B 2, B 6, B 10, B 12, / om. T: B 4 / om. Tt: L 8,1 mrvare (?), out of which I can make no sense.

O 41; Salve, virgo, Tonantis solium.

Unique source: Oxford, Bodleian Library, Rawlinson lit. d.3, N° 3, f. 72^r.

T: B 12 / om. Du, Tr, Tt: N. V.

O 42; Gloria militie sanctorum.

Unique source: Oxford, Bodleian Library, MS. Mus.c.60, N° 6, f. 81a^T (fragm).

The rhythm of the texted part (including the change of rhythmic mode from I to III) is indicated in the MS. T: B 28 L; B 33,3-2 lost (conjecture). Tr: B 34 lost (conjecture). Ti: L 3,2 neumate; L 3,4 bottom of letters cut off, uncertain; L 5,4 last syllable lost with rest of text.

O 43; Equitas in curia.

Unique source: Cambridge, Gonville and Caius College, 820/810. Fragment (I).

The separate voices of this composition are notated like a motet: Tr and Du on facing pages, with T underneath on each page; all voices are completely furnished with Tt UL (confer the preceding work in the MS, without notation). T: B 53,1, B 57,1 2li-spr-cp (= 2L), but confer the same form at Tr, B 71,6-1 and all other 2li, which are iambic; B 72,3 f. pli uncertain. Du: B 1-B 60,1 lost, with its Tt (conjecture); B 61-B 68 voice-exchange not in MS, probably because not enough of each melody is repeated; B 73,1-2 AG; B 92,1 L. Tr: B 1-B 60,1 lost (see Du but Tt is preserved from L 5,2); B 61-B 68 see Du. Tt, T: L 1,1 initial E twice (2nd time UL to B 10,2); Du: L 1-L 8,3 lost (except for last syll -tur); Tr: L 1-L 5,1 lost.

O 44; De supernis sedibus.

Unique source: Worcester, Chapter Library, N° 5, ff. 3 °/4".

Written in three separate parts, with Tt UL for each part as well as for the opening melisma. It is not a true rondellus, but shares some features with conductus, and hence is included in this edition. The use of third rhythmic mode in the last section has been chosen with caution, but it appears better than «alternate» third mode: 1) stylistically, with its contrast to the first section; 2) in Tr a stem has been erased from the second L (B 52,2), which would have given «alternate» third mode; 3) apart from a few 2li groupings, all the units are in regular third mode notation. T: B 36, B 38,1, B 52 f. illeg. Du: B