



## Saint Mary's College Choral Series

Nancy Menk, Editor

*Saint Mary's College*

*Notre Dame, Indiana*

# LATIN MADRIGALS

by

**Gregg Smith**

## TEXTS and TRANSLATIONS

### R E D I T   A E S T A S ( " S u m m e r   R e t u r n s " )

Rédit   aéstas   cunctis   gráta,  
Returns   summer   to all   pleasing,

Viret   hérba   jam   per   práta;  
grows   green   grass   now   through   meadows;

Némus   fróndibus   ornátur,  
grove   with   leaves   is   adorned,

Sic   per   fróndes   renovátur.  
thus   through   foliage   is   renewed.

Brúma   vilís,   nebulósa,  
Winter   vile,   foggy/misty,

Érat'   nóbis   taediósa.  
was   for   us   tiresome.

Summer returns, pleasing to all,  
the grass is green in the meadows;  
thus is summer renewed.  
Vile winter, foggy and misty,  
was tiresome for us.

Cum   Aprílis   rédit   grátus  
When   april   returns   pleasing

Flóribus   circumstipátus,  
with   flowers   attended,

Philoména   cantiléna  
Philomena   with   song

Réplét   némoris   amoéna,  
fills   again   of   grove   pleasant(places),

Et   puéllae   per   platéas  
and   girls   through   streets

Intricátas   dant   choréas.  
intricate   perform   dances.

When pleasant April returns  
accompanied by flowers,  
the nightingale fills the pleasant places  
of the grove once again with its song,  
and girls perform elaborate dances  
throughout the streets.

Anonymous

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IMPORTUNA VENERI  
("Unfavorable to Love")

Importúna Veneri  
Unfavorable to Venus

Rédit brúmae glácies,  
returns of winter ice,

Rédit équo céleri  
returns horse swift

Jóvis intempéries:  
of Jove inclemency:

Cicatrice vétéri  
scar old

Squálet méa fácies:  
is rough my face:

*Ámor est in pectóre,*  
Love is in breast,

*Núlló frígens frígóre.*  
no freezing cold.

Jam cútis contrahítur,  
Now skin is wrinkled,

Dum flámmis exérceor;  
while with flames I am made strong,

Nox insómnis ágitur  
night sleepless is driven

Et in díe tórqueor;  
and in day I am tormented;

Si sic díu vívitur,  
if thus long it is lived,

Gravióra véreor:  
more serious I fear:

*Ámor est in pectóre,*  
*Núlló frígens frígóre.*

Unfavorable to love,  
the ice of winter returns,  
Jove's inclemency returns  
on a swift horse:  
my face is rough  
with an old scar.

Love is in my heart,  
no freezing can make it cold.

Now my skin is shrivelled,  
while love's flames make me strong;  
At night I am sleepless  
and during the day I am tormented;  
If I live this way very long,  
I fear worse things will come.

Love is in my heart,  
no freezing can make it cold.

Tu qui cólla súperum,  
You who necks of those above,

Cúpido, suppéditas,  
Cupid, put foot,

Cur tuis me miserum  
why your me miserable

Fácibus sollicitas?  
torches do you bother?

Non te fugat ásperrum  
Not you let flee cruel

Frigóris aspéritas:  
of cold cruelty:

*Ámor est in pectóre,*  
*Núlló frígens frígóre.*

Eleménta vícibus  
Elements alternately

Qualitátes váriant,  
qualities change,

Dum nunc pígrant nívibus,  
while now made slow by snow,

Nunc calórem séntiant;  
now heat let them feel;

Sed mea singúltibus,  
but my sobbing,

Cólla sémpér inhiant:  
necks always gape open:

*Ámor est in pectóre,*  
*Núlló frígens frígóre.*

You, Cupid, who put your foot  
on the necks of the gods,  
why do you harass me with your torches?  
The cruelty of the cold does not  
put you to flight, cruel one.

Love is in my heart,  
no freezing can make it cold.

The elements change  
their qualities periodically,  
sometimes they are slowed by the snow,  
other times they feel the heat;  
but my throat is always  
gaping open, and sobbing:

Love is in my heart,  
no freezing can make it cold.

Walter of Châtillon

VER REDIT

("Spring Returns")

Ver rédit optátum  
Spring returns wished for

Cum gáudio,  
with joy,

Flóre decorátum  
with flower decorated

Purpúreo;  
purple;

Áves éduint cántus  
Birds give forth songs

Quam dúlciter,  
how sweetly,

Reviréscit némus,  
grows green again wood,

Cántus est amoénus  
song is pleasant

Totáliter.  
completely.

The longed-for spring returns with joy,  
bedecked with purple flowers.  
The birds sing so sweetly,  
and the woods are green again,  
and pleasant song fills the air.

Júvenes ut flóres  
Young men as flowers  
Accipient  
may receive

Et se per odóres  
And themselves through fragrances

Reficiant,  
may renew,

Vírgines assúmant  
Maidens may take up

Alácriter,  
eagerly,

Et éant in práta  
And may they go into meadows

Flóribus ornáta  
with flowers decorated

Commúniter.  
together.

Let young men  
take maidens eagerly,  
and go into the flowery meadows with them  
to gather flowers and  
refresh themselves with their fragrances.

Carmina Burana