

50. O homo considera / O homo de pulvere / Contratenor / Filiae Jerusalem

Isorhythmic motet Anonymous (English, early 14th century)

Beat ♩ 5 10

(Triplum) O ho - mo, con - si - de - ra quae vi - tae la -

(Motetus) O ho - mo, de pul - ve - re sur - ge; pro - pe - re et

(Contratenor) Quartus de O homo.

Tenor A¹ I Filiae Jerusalem. Tenor de O homo.

15 20

- bi - lis glo - ri - a dat com - pen - di - a, cu - jus na - tu - ra fo - vet

Je - sum am - ple - cte - re cor - de, ver - bis, o - pe - re, qui pro

25 30

sin - gu - li - a. Nunc flo - ret, nunc de - fi - cit; re - fert et i - na - ni -

tu - is cul - pis a - spe - re cae - sus et se fu - ne - ri

A² II

35 40 45

- a. Nunc gau - det, nunc mae - rêt; se - ro dat sta - bi - li -

vo - lens sub - de - re; te re - de - mit li - be - re ca - ri - ta -

50 55 #

- a, cum sit tu - i de - li - ca - ta pro-mit. Vi - ti - a lin - guae re - go
- te me - ra. Er - go, mi - ser, gau - de - - re

A³ III

60 65 #

ta - li - a Chri - sti ve - sti - gi - a co -
in e - jus i - ti - ne - re; cun - cta ma - la de - - se - - re

70 75 80

- nan-tur se-que - re quae-rens cae - li - ca vi - de - re gau - di - a.
et sic stu - de vi - ve - re ut que - as gau - de - re.

ONC 17.

Although a few French motets of the 13th century have a quadruplum, motets for four voices did not become common until the 14th century. Several early examples occur in English sources, in which the fourth voice is often labelled 'quartus cantus'. It is usually textless and lies in the same register as the tenor. In the tenor part of the present example the concept of the repeated rhythmic cell or *ordo* is no longer evident; repetition is, however, apparent on a larger scale, the twenty-seven bar tenor melody being stated three times in the same rhythmic disposition. For a discussion of *isorhythm*, see No. 58.

TRANSLATION

Triplum: O man, consider what rewards the transient glory of the world

gives, the nature of which encourages vain hopes. Now it flourishes; now it withers and the rewards which it brings are useless. Now it rejoices; now it weeps; peace, which would be pleasant to you, it brings and gives too late. I restrain these vices of my tongue as they struggle to follow Christ, and I seek to see the joy of heaven.

Motetus: O man, rise from the dust; quickly to embrace Jesus in heart, words, and deed, who for your sins was harshly killed and willingly underwent burial; He redeems you freely of His pure love. Therefore, wretch, rejoice in His path; shun all evil and strive to live so that you will be able to rejoice.

Tenor: O daughters of Jerusalem.