

Comment peult

alla quinta bassa

Josquin Desprez (ca 1450 - 1521 Condé sur Escaut)

S
A
T
B

Com -

Detailed description: This system shows the first five measures of the piece. The Soprano (S) part has whole rests followed by a half note C in the fifth measure. The Alto (A) part begins with a half rest, followed by a half note G, a dotted half note F, and then a half note E. The Tenor (T) part has whole rests. The Bass (B) part features a melodic line starting on G, moving up stepwise to C, then down to F, and ending on G.

6

ment peult a - voir joy - - e qui

Com - ment peult a - voir joy - -

Detailed description: This system contains measures 6 through 10. The Soprano part continues with the lyrics 'ment peult a - voir joy - - e qui'. The Alto part has a melodic line with a half note G, quarter notes F and E, a half note D, and a half note C. The Tenor part continues with whole rests and then a half note C. The Bass part continues its melodic line with a half note F, quarter notes E and D, a half note C, and a half note B.

11

for - - - tu - - ne con - traint?

e qui for - - - tu - - ne

Detailed description: This system contains measures 11 through 15. The Soprano part continues with the lyrics 'for - - - tu - - ne con - traint?'. The Alto part has a melodic line with a half note G, quarter notes F and E, a half note D, and a half note C. The Tenor part continues with whole rests and then a half note C. The Bass part continues its melodic line with a half note F, quarter notes E and D, a half note C, and a half note B.

16

L'oi - seau qui pert sa proy - -

con - traint? L'oi - seau qui

21

e de riens ne luy

pert sa proy - - - e de riens

26

sou - vient. Au boys sur la ver -

ne luy sou - vient. Au

32

du - re n'a point tout son de -

boys sur la ver - du - - re n'a point tout

38

sir. De chan - ter il n'a son. de - sir. De

43

cu - re qui vit en des - chan - ter il n'a cu - re qui

48

plai - sir. vit en des - plai - sir.

53

4

56

Edition based on Smijers, *Wereldlijke werken*, II 54, nr 56, I doubled the note values. Original clefs G2, C3, (C3), C4. Note however, that g" cannot be sung by a male voice and so the piece should be probably performed a 5th down, *alla quinta bassa*, as has been indicated by the use of high clefs.

B. Thomas, *Seven secular pieces*, (London 1976) and NJE supply a text to the canonic Superius and Tenor from a different source, ending at bar 49/51. Smijers gives the text of the first line only in the three upper parts as: *Comment peult haver joye*, without indicating its source. I follow Thomas.

Glareanus, pag 356-357 (pag 376-377 on IMSLP) has a Latin text from Matth. 15.22 for the whole piece in all four parts.

The tenor is given in one source as: *Fuga duorum temporum per dyapason: canon, two bars in the octave*; added in three sources: *signa congruentiae* at Superius bar 7 and 51. One of the sources is Petrucci, *Canti B* (1502).

NJE gives editorial b flats at Bassus bar 12 and Altus and Bassus bar 38. Glareanus gives no accidentals at all and considers this piece as an example of the hypoionic mode.

This is the edition *quinta bassa* has been added, and a keyboard transcription, *alla quinta bassa* as well.

I supply a separate edition of this piece for soprano and two tenor and bass recorders, transposing the piece a 4th down.

Translation of the text:

How can he feel joy, who is restrained by fate? The bird who loses its prey does not remember anything.

In the woods and on the bushes nobody will have what he desires. From singing nobody will be cured, who lives in displeasure.

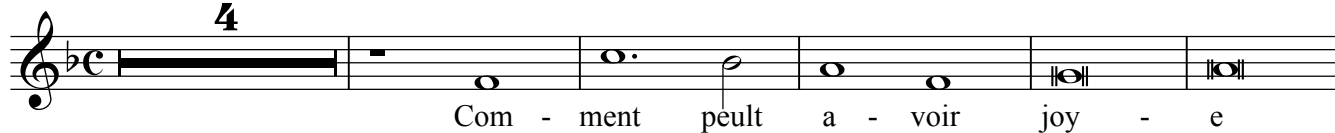
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Superius

4



10



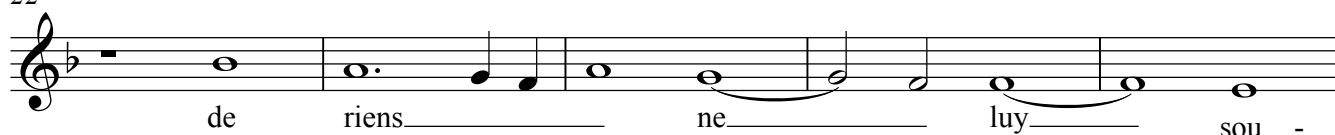
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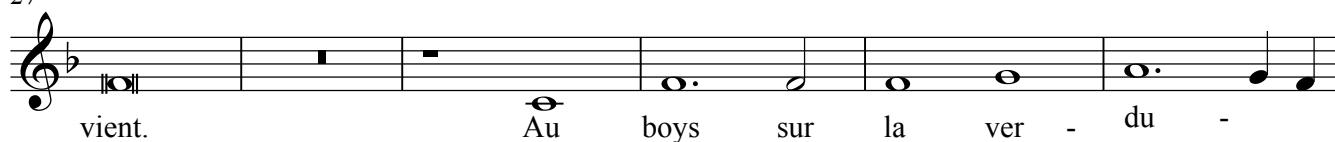
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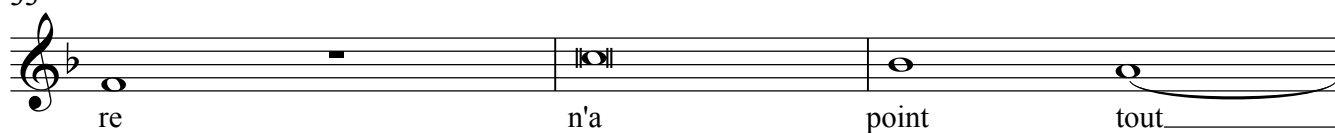
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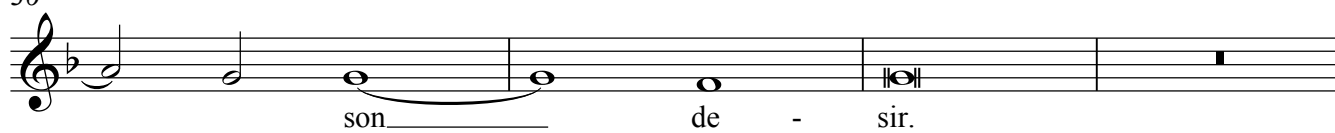
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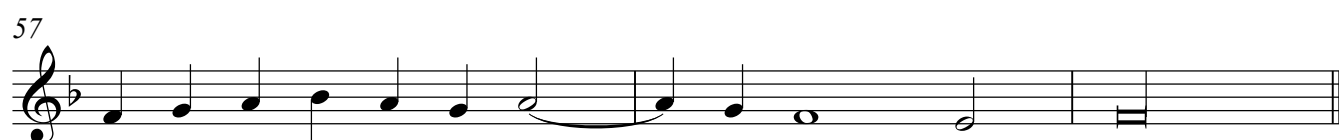
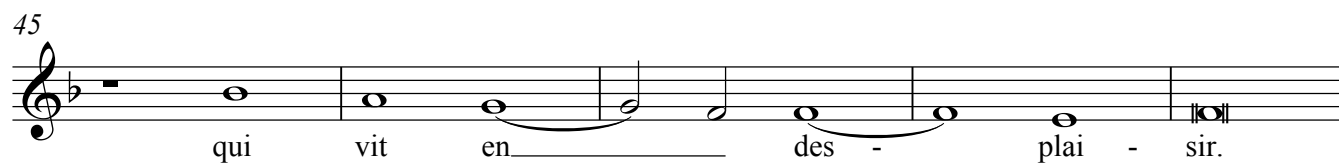
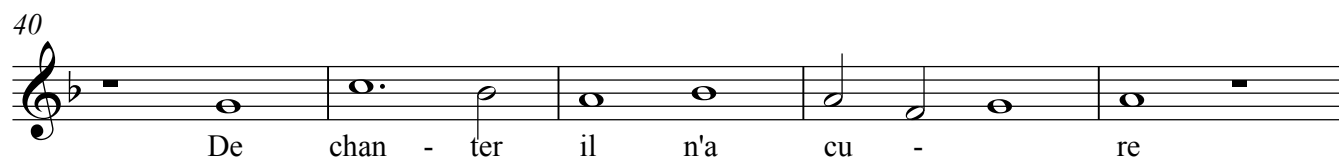


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36





Comment peut

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Altus

6

10.

The first staff of music is written in treble clef with a key signature of one flat (B-flat). It contains a sequence of notes: G4 (quarter), F4 (quarter), E4 (quarter), D4 (quarter), C4 (half), B3 (quarter), A3 (quarter), G3 (half), F3 (quarter), E3 (quarter), D3 (half), and C3 (half). The notes are connected by a single melodic line.

13

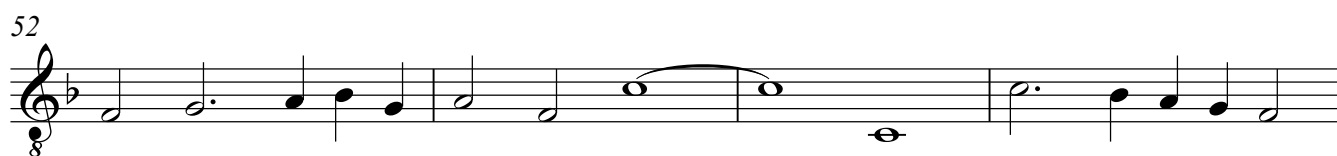
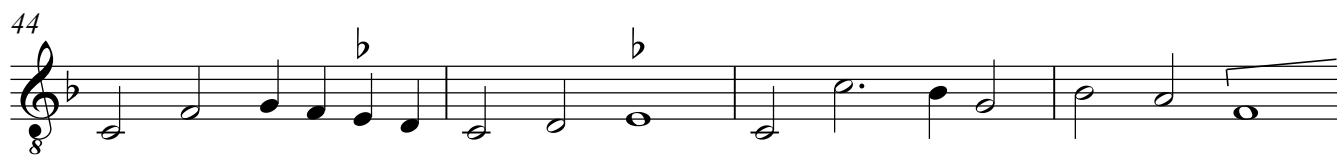
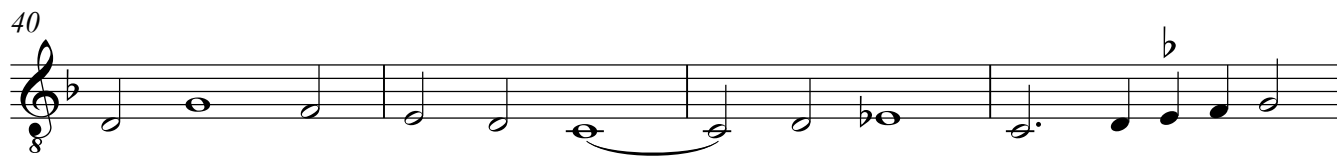
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28

32



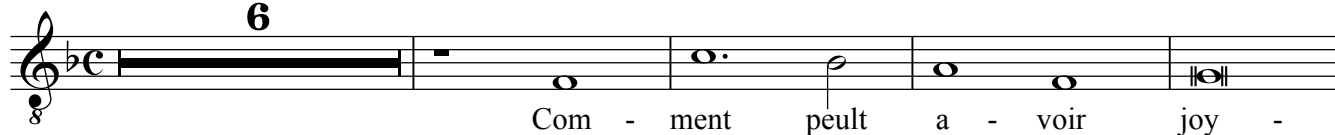
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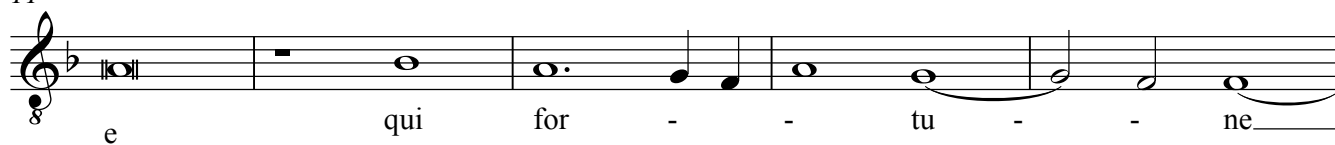
Josquin Desprez (ca 1450 - 1521 Condé sur Escaut)

Tenor

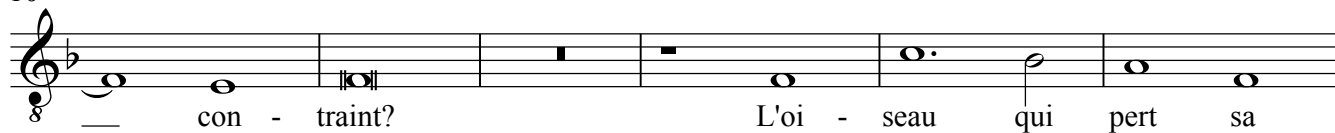
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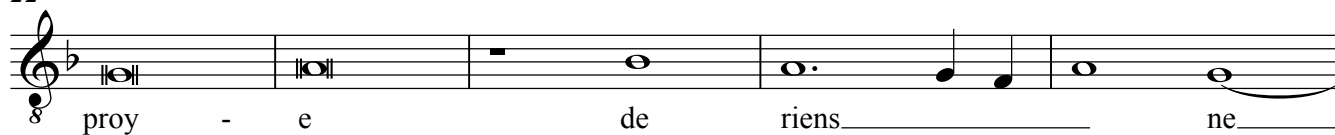
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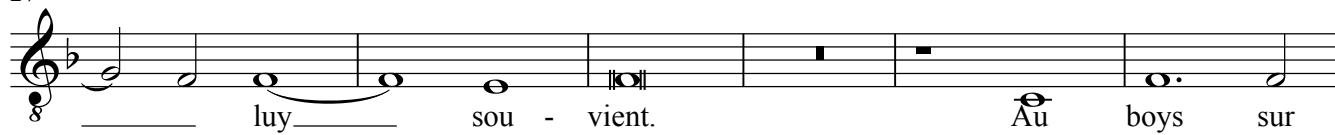
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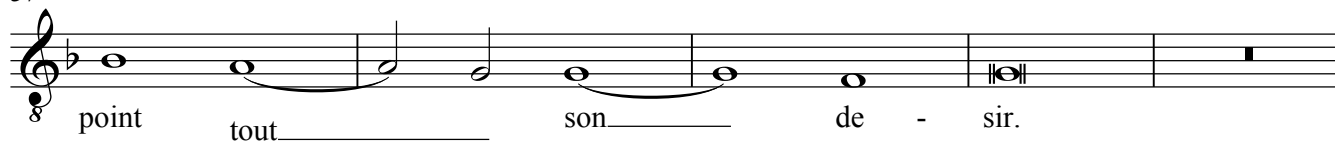
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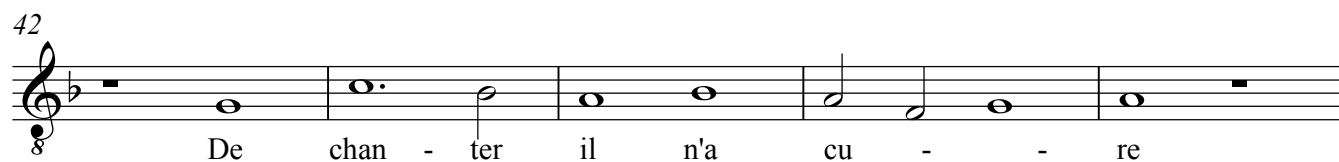


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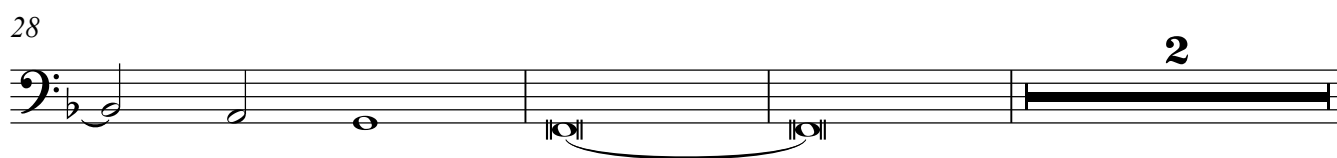
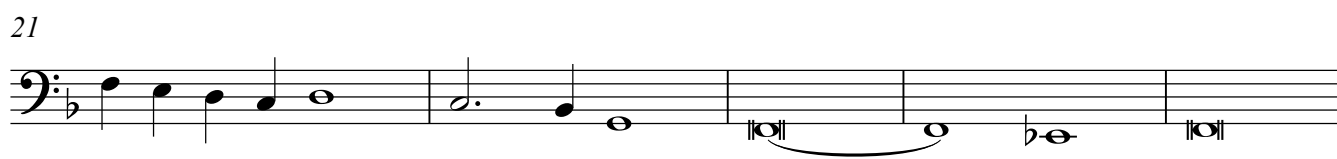
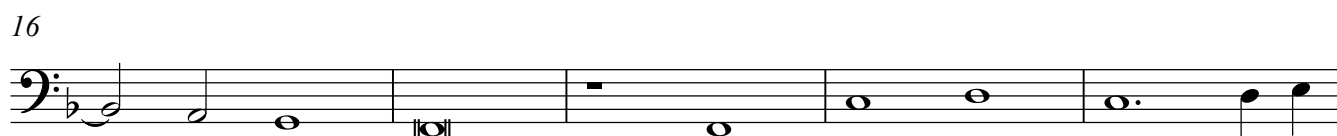


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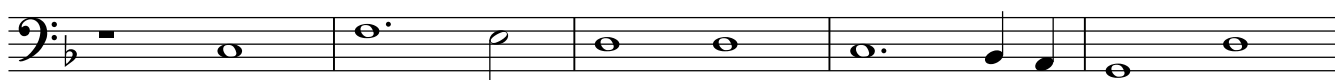
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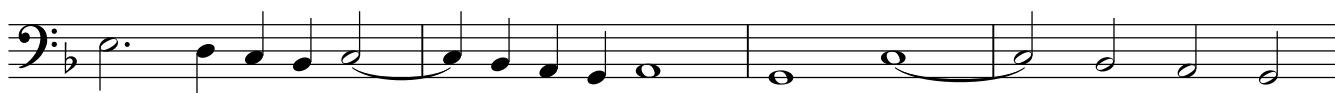
Bassus



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38



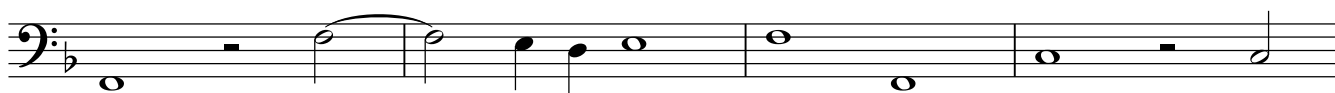
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51



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