

COLLECTION MUSICALE EN FORMAT NUMÉRIQUE
POLYPHONIES VOCALES DE LA RENAISSANCE

Orlando Gibbons (1583-1625)
What is our life ?

à cinq voix



A musical score for five voices, likely for viols and voices, from the First Set of Madrigals and Motets of 5. Parts: apt for viols and Voyces - London, 1612. The score consists of five staves. The top staff uses a treble clef, the second staff a bass clef, the third staff a bass clef with a '8' below it, the fourth staff a bass clef with a '8' below it, and the bottom staff a bass clef with a 'b' below it. The music is in common time (indicated by 'C'). The lyrics are as follows:

What is our life, — our life? a play of —
What is our life? a play of pas - si - on,
What
What is our life? —

7

pas - - - sion, what _____ is

a _____ play _____ of _ pas - sion, what _____ is our _____

8 is our life? _____ a play of pas - sion, of _____ pas - si - on, what _____

8 — a ____ play of pas - sion, a play _____ of pas - si - on,

What _____ is our life? _____ a _____ play of pas -

14

A musical score for voice and piano. The vocal line consists of five staves of music. The first four staves are in treble clef, and the fifth staff is in bass clef. The key signature changes from one flat to one sharp. The lyrics are integrated into the musical notes. The piano accompaniment is represented by a series of vertical stems and dots.

our life, what _____ is our life? our life? a play —

life, what _____ is our life, what is _____ our life? _____

— is our _____ life? a play of pas - si - on.

what _____ is our life? a play _____ of pas - sion, what

- - - sion, what is our life, _____ our life? a play of

23

A musical score for five parts: Treble 1, Treble 2, Treble 3, Bass, and Continuo. The music is in common time, with a key signature of one flat. The vocal parts sing in English, while the basso continuo part provides harmonic support. Measure 23 begins with a melodic line in Treble 1, followed by entries from Treble 2, Treble 3, and Bass. The Continuo part is present throughout, providing harmonic context.

— of pas - si - on. Our mirth the mu - sic of di - vi - si - on, of —
— a play of pas - si - on. Our mirth the mu - sic
Our mirth _____ the mu - sic, the mu - sic of
is our life? a play of pas - si - on.
pas - si - on. Our mirth the mu - sic of di - vi - si - on, of di - vi - si - on,

29

di - vi - si - on.

of di - vi - si - on, _____ our mirth the mu - - - sic of di - vi -

di - vi - si - on, our mirth the mu - sic of di - vi - si - on, our mirth the mu - sic of di -

Our mirth the mu - sic of di - vi - si - on, our mirth the mu - - - sic of di -

our mirth the mu - sic of di - vi - si - on.

34

Our mo-thers' wombs the tir - ing - hou - ses be,
- - si - on. Our
of di - vi - si - on. Our mo-thers' wombs, our mo - thers wombs the __
- - vi - si - on. Our mo - thers' wombs, our mo - thers' wombs
Our mo-thers' wombs the tir - ing - hou - ses be,

39

A musical score for voice and piano. The vocal line consists of four staves of music, with lyrics written below each staff. The piano accompaniment is shown in the bottom staff.

Where we are dressed _____ for this short
mo - thers' wombs the tir - ing - hou - ses be.
tir - ing, ____ the ____ tir - ring-hou - ses be, Where we are dressed, _____ are
the tir - ing - hou - ses be, Where we are dressed ____
Where we are dressed, are dressed for

44

A musical score for three voices (Soprano, Alto, Tenor) and basso continuo. The score consists of five staves. The first four staves are in treble clef, and the last staff is in bass clef. The vocal parts are in common time (indicated by '44'). The basso continuo part is in common time (indicated by '8'). The music includes various note values (eighth and sixteenth notes), rests, and dynamic markings (e.g., forte, piano). The lyrics are written below each staff, corresponding to the musical phrases.

com - e - dy. Heaven _____ the ju - di - cious sharp spec - ra - tor is,

Heaven _____ the ju - di - cious sharp spec - ta - tor _____ is, haeven the ju - di -

dressed for this short com - e - dy. Heaven _____ the ju - di - cious

for this short com - e - dy, short com - e - dy.

this short com - - - e - dy. Heaven _____ the ju - di - cious sharp spec -

51

A musical score for four voices and basso continuo. The score consists of five staves. The top three staves are soprano, alto, and tenor voices, each with a treble clef. The bottom two staves are basso continuo, with a bass clef. The music is in common time. Measure 51 begins with a rest followed by a melodic line in the soprano, alto, and tenor voices. The basso continuo provides harmonic support with sustained notes and bassoon entries. The lyrics describe a 'sharp spectator' who 'sits and marks still' while others 'act'. The vocal parts switch roles in subsequent measures, with the basso continuo taking on the role of the sharp spectator.

That sits and marks still who doth act a - miss,
- - cious sharp spec - ta-tor - is, That sits and marks stl who doth act _____ a - miss,
8 sharp spec - ta-tor, spec-ta - tor is, That sits and marks, that sits and marks still
spec-ta - tor is, That sits and marks, that sits and marks still
ta - tor is, That sits and marks who doth a - miss,

57

that sits and marks still who doth act a - miss. Our

that sits and marks still who doth act a - miss, still who doth act a - miss.

8 who doth act a - miss, that sits and marks, marks still who doth act a - miss.

8 who doth act a - miss, still who doth act a - miss, that sits and marks still who doth act a - miss.

that sits and marks still who doth act a - miss, still who doth act a - miss.

63

graves, our graves ____ that hide _____ us from _____ the

Our graves thata hide _____ us from the search-ing sun, that hide _____ us

Our graves that hide _____ us from _____ the search - - - ing _____

Our graves that hide _____ us from the search - ing sun, from _____ the search-ing

Our graves that hide, _____ that hide us from the _____ search - ing

71

A musical score for voice and basso continuo. The score consists of five staves. The top four staves are for the voice, and the bottom staff is for the basso continuo. The music is in common time, with a key signature of one flat. The vocal parts are mostly in soprano range, with some notes in alto range. The basso continuo part provides harmonic support. The lyrics are written below the staves, corresponding to the musical phrases.

search - ing — sun Are like drawn cur - tains when the
from the search - ing sun Are like drawn cur - tains when the play _____ is done,
_____ sun Are like drawn cur - tains when the play is
sun, the search-ing sun Are like drawn cur - tains, _____ drawn cur - - -
sun _____ Are like drawn cur - tains when the play is

78

A musical score for voice and basso continuo. The score consists of five staves. The top four staves are for the voice, and the bottom staff is for the basso continuo. The music is in common time, with a key signature of one flat. The vocal parts sing in soprano and alto voices. The basso continuo part provides harmonic support. The lyrics describe a play's curtain closing and the audience leaving.

play is done, _____ when _____
are like drawn cur - tains when _____ the play is _____ done,
done, when _____ the play _____ is _____ done, when _____ the play _____ is done,
- tains when _____ the play is _____ done, the
done, when the play _____ is _____ done.

85

— the — play — is — done, — the — play — is — done, — are — like drawn
are like drawn

— is — done, — are — like — drawn cur — - tains when — the —
play — is — done, — are — like — drawn cur — - tains when — the —

90

A musical score for five voices and basso continuo. The score consists of six staves. The top four staves are soprano, alto, tenor, and bass, all in treble clef and common time. The bottom staff is basso continuo, in bass clef and common time. The music is in F major, with key changes indicated by sharps and flats. The lyrics are as follows:

cur - - - tains when the play is done. Thus march we,
cur - tains when _____ the play is done. Thus
play is done, the play is _____ done. Thus march _____ we, play - ing,
play is done. Thus march _____ we, play - ing,
Thus march we, play - ing, to our

95

A musical score for five voices and basso continuo. The score consists of five staves. The top four staves are soprano, alto, tenor, and bass, all in treble clef and common time. The basso continuo staff is in bass clef and common time. The vocal parts sing in a mix of English and Latin words, including "play - ing," "thus march we," and "lat - est rest." The music features various note values like eighth and sixteenth notes, rests, and a sharp sign indicating a key change.

play - ing, thus march we, play - ing, thus march we,—
march we, play - ing, thus march we, play - ing, thus march we,
thus march we, play - ing, thus march _____ we, play - ing,
thus march we, play - ing, thus march we, play - ing, thus
lat - est rest, thus march we, play - ing, to our

100

A musical score for five voices and basso continuo. The score consists of five staves. The top four staves are soprano, alto, tenor, and bass, all in treble clef and common time. The bottom staff is basso continuo, in bass clef and common time. The music is in 100 BPM. The lyrics are as follows:

Soprano: — play - ing, to our lat - est rest, thus march we, play-ing, thus march we,

Alto: play - ing, to our lat - est rest, ouyr lat - est rest, thus march we,

Tenor: thus march we, play - ing, thus march we, play - ing,

Bass: march we, play-ing, to our lat - est rest, thus march we, play-ing, to our

Basso continuo: lat - est rest, our lat - est rest,

105

A musical score for three voices and basso continuo. The score consists of five staves. The top three staves represent the three voices, each with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat. The bottom two staves represent the basso continuo, with a bass clef and a key signature of one flat. The music is in common time. The vocal parts sing in a call-and-response style, with the first voice leading and the others responding. The lyrics are: "play - ing, to our lat - est rest, thus march we," followed by a repeat sign and "thus march we, play-ing, to our". The second vocal part continues with "play - - - ing, thus march we, play-ing, to our". The third vocal part begins with "to our lat - est rest, thus march we, play-ing, to our lat - est rest, _____". The basso continuo part provides harmonic support with sustained notes and chords.

play - ing, to our lat - est rest, thus march we,

play - - - ing, thus march we, play-ing, to our

8 to our lat - est rest, thus march we, play-ing, to our lat - est rest, _____

8 lat - est rest, thus march we, play - - ing, thus

thus march we play - - ing, thus march we, play-ing, to our lat - est

110

play-ing, to our lat - est rest, On - ly we die, _____ we die in ear -

lat - - - est rest, On - ly _____ we die in ear - - - nest, that's _____ no

thus march we, play-ing, to our lat - est rest, Only we die in ear-nest, that's _____

march we, play-ing, to our lat - est, rest _____ On - - ly we die,

rest, _____ On - - - ly we _____

116

- nest, that's no jest, we die in ear - nest, that's no jest.

jest, _____ in _____ ear - nest that's no - jest.

8 no jest, we die in ear - nest, that's no - jest.

8 we die in ear - nest, that's _____ no jest.

die in ear - nest, that's no jest, no _____ jest.