

Carmina Burana – choruses

The text is from the 11th to 13th century Carmina Burana manuscript that was discovered in Bavaria in 1803. The bawdy and satirical verses are mostly in Medieval Latin and Middle High German.

The pronunciation guide below follows the recording with the Philharmonia Chorus under the renowned German choirmaster Wilhelm Pitz, from the mid 1960s.

Latin text (1-7 and 11-25) is mostly pronounced as for modern Germanic Latin, *not as Italianate church Latin*. Reminders and hints are in *[italic text]* at the end of a line.

In general:

- ‘g’ is always hard;
- ‘c’ is hard before ‘a, o, and u’, while it is pronounced as ‘ts’ before ‘e, and i’, and as ‘s’ before ‘y’.
- ‘sc’ is pronounced as ‘ss’;
- ‘cc’ is pronounced as ‘k’;
- ‘u’ is pronounced as ‘oo’ not ‘yoo’ as in words like obdurat and puella
- **but note that** ‘qu’ is as in English not (kv) in modern German.

Middle High German [MHG] text (8-10) is mostly pronounced as in modern German. Reminders and hints are in *[italic text]* at the end of a line.

Inside the [] pronunciation hints:

- ‘oo’ is to be pronounced as in ‘book’
- ‘uu’ is to be pronounced as in ‘boot’
- ‘ch’ is soft as in the modern German ich except where otherwise shown.

Fortuna imperatrix mundi

No. 1. O fortuna

O Fortuna,
velut luna
statu variabilis,
semper crescis [*cressis*]
aut decrescis; [*decressis*]
vita detestabilis
nunc obdurat
et tunc curat]
ludo mentis aciem, [*atsiem*]
egestatem,
potestatem
dissolvit ut glaciem. [*glatsiem*]

Sors immanis
et inanis,
rota tu volubilis,
status malus,
vana salus
semper dissolubilis,
obumbrata
et velata
michi quoque niteris; [*mihi*]
nunc per ludum
dorsum nudum
fero tui sceleris. [*sseleris*]

Sors salutis
et virtutis
michi nunc contraria, [*mihi*]
est affectus
et defectus
semper in angaria.
Hac in hora
sine mora
corde pulsum tangite; [*hard g*]
quod per sortem
sternit fortem,
mecum omnes plangite! [*hard g*]

No. 2. Fortune plango vulnera

Fortune plango vulnera
stillantibus ocellis, [*otsellis*]
quod sua michi munera [*mihi*]
subtrahit rebellis.

Verum est, quod legitur, [hard g]
fronte capillata,
sed plerumque sequitur
Occasio calvata.

In Fortune solio
sederam elatus,
prosperitatis vario
flore coronatus;
quicquid enim florui [quisquid]
felix et beatus,
nunc a summo corruui
gloria privatus.

Fortune rota volvitur:
descendo minoratus; [dessendo]
alter in altum tollitur;
nimis exaltatus
rex sedet in vertice— [vertitse]
caveat ruinam!
nam sub axe legimus [hard g]
Hecubam reginam. [hard g]

Primo vere

No. 3. Veris leta facies

Veris leta facies [fatsiës]
mundo propinatur,
hiemalis acies [atsiës]
victa iam fugatur, [yam]
in vestitu vario
Flora principatur, [printsipatur]
nemorum dulcisono [dultsisono]
que cantu celebratur. [tselebratur]

Flore fusus gremio
Phebus novo more
risum dat, hac vario
iam stipate flore. [yam]
Zephyrus nectareo
spirans in odore.
Certatim pro bravio [tsertatim]
curramus in amore.

Cytharizat cantico [sytarizat]
dulcis Philomena, [dultsis]
flore rident vario

prata iam serena, [yam]
salit cetus avium [tsetus]
silve per amena,
chorus promit virginum [hard g]
iam gaudia millena. [yam]

No. 4 – baritone solo

No. 5. Ecce gratum

Ecce gratum
et optatum
ver reducit gaudia, [redutsit]
purpuratum,
floret pratum,
sol serenat omnia.
lamiam cedant tristia! [tsedant]
Estas redit,
nunc recedit [retsedit]
hyemis sevitia. [sevitsia]

Iam liquescit [yam liquessit]
et decrescit [decressit]
grando, nix et cetera; [tsetera]
bruma fugit, [hard g]
et iam sugit, [hard g]
Ver Estatis ubera;
illi mens est misera,
qui nec vivit,
nec lascivit [lassivit]
sub Estatis dextera.

Gloriantur
et letantur
in melle dulcedinis, [dultsedinis]
qui conantur,
ut utantur
premio Cupidinis;
simus jussu Cypridis [tsypridis]
gloriantes
et letantes
pares esse Paridis.

Uf dem anger

No. 6 – Tanz for orchestra

No. 7. Floret silva

Floret silva nobilis

floribus et foliis.

Ubi est antiquus
meus amicus?
Hinc equitavit,
eia, quis me amabit?

Floret silva undique,
nah min gesellen ist mir we. [vay]

Gruonet der walt allenthalben, [gruonet]
[allent-halben]
wa ist min geselle alse lange? [va]
[gezelle]
Der ist geriten hinnen [gereeten heenen]
o wi, wer sol mich minnen? [vi ver zo]

No. 8. Chramer gip [MHG]

Chramer, gip die varwe mir, [varve]
die min wengel roete, [vengel röte]
damit ich die jungen man [yoongen]
an ir dank der minnenliebe noete. [nöte]
Seht mich an, [zayt]
jungen man [yoongen]
lat mich iu gevallen! [yuu gevallen]

Minnet, tugentliche man, [tuugentliche]
minnecliche frouwen! [frauen]
minne tuot iu hoch gemuot [tuut yuu]
[gemuut]
unde lat iuch in hohen eren schouwen.
[yuukh] [shauen]
Seht mich an, [zayt]
jungen man! [yoongen]
lat mich iu gevallen! [yuu gevallen]

Wol dir, werit, daz du bist [verit] [das]
also freudenriche! [alzo froydenriche]
ich will dir sin undertan [zin]
durch din liebe immer sicherliche.
[leebe]
Seht mich an, [zayt]
jungen man! [yoongen]
lat mich iu gevallen! [yuu gevallen]

No. 9. Reie / Swaz / Chume / Swaz [MHG]

Swaz hie gat umbe, [svaz hee]
daz sint alles megede, [das zint]
die wellent an man [vellent]
allen disen sumer gan! [deezen zoomer]

Chume, chum, geselle min, [koom-e,
koom, gezelle]
ih enbite harte din, [ich enbeete]
ih enbite harte din, [ich enbeete]
chume, chum, geselle min. [koom-e,
koom, gezelle]

Suzer rosenvarwer munt. [zuuzer
rozenvarver moont]
chum uñ mache mich gesunt [koom
oon mache mich gezoont]
chum uñ mache mich gesunt [koom
oon mache mich gezoont]
suzer rosenvarwer munt. [zuuser
rozenvarver moont]

Swaz hie gat umbe [svaz hee]
daz sint alles megede, [das zint]
die wellent an man [vellent]
allen disen sumer gan! [deezen zoomer]

No. 10. Were diu werlt [MHG]

Were diu werlt alle min [vere dee verlt]
von deme mere unze an den Rin, [fon
dem mer-unz-an den reen]
des wolt ih mih darben, [mich]
daz diu chünegin von Engellant [das
dee künegin]
lege an minen armen. [layge] [meenen]

In taberna

No. 11 – baritone solo

No. 12. Olim lacus – tenor solo (italic text) & chorus

*Olim lacus colueram,
olim pulcher extiteram,
dum cignus ego fueram.*

Miser, miser!
modo niger [hard g]
et ustus fortiter! [oostoos]

*Girat, regirat garcifer;
me rogos urit fortiter:
propinat me nunc dapifer,*

Miser, miser!
modo niger [hard g]
et ustus fortiter! [oostoos]

*Nunc in scutella iaceo, [iatseo]
et volitare nequeo,
dentes frendentes video:*

Miser, miser!
modo niger [hard g]
et ustus fortiter! [oostoos]

No. 13. Ego sum abbas – baritone solo (italic text) & men's voices

*Ego sum abbas Cucaniensis,
et consilium meum est cum bibulis,
et in secta Decii voluntas mea est,
et qui mane me quesierit in taberna,
post vesperam nudus egredietur,
et sic denudatus veste clamabit:*

*Wafna! Wafna! Wafna! Wafna! [Vafna]
quid fecisti sors turpissima?
Wafna! Wafna! Wafna!
Nostre vite gaudia
abstulisti omnia!
Wafna! Wafna! Wafna! Wafna!
Ha ha!*

No. 14 In taberna – men's voices

In taberna quando sumus,
non curamus quid sit humus,
sed ad ludum properamus,
cui semper insudamus.
Quid agatur in taberna, [hard g]

ubi nummus est pincerna, [pintserna]
hoc est opus ut queratur,
si quid loquar, audiat.

Quidam ludunt, quidam bibunt,
quidam indiscrete vivunt.
Sed in ludo qui morantur,
ex his quidam denudantur,
quidam ibi vestiuntur,
quidam saccis induuntur.
Ibi nullus timet mortem,
sed pro Baccho mittunt sortem. [bakko]

Primo pro nummata vini,
ex hac bibunt libertini;
semel bibunt pro captives,
post hec bibunt ter pro vivis,
quater pro Christianis cunctis,
quinquies pro fidelibus defunctis,
sexies pro sororibus vanis,
septies pro militibus silvanis.

Octies pro fratribus perversis,
nonies pro monachis disperses,
[monakis]
decies pro navigantibus, [detsies]
undecies pro discordantibus,
[oondetsies]
duodecies pro penitentibus,
[duodetsies] [not dyuo]
tredecies pro iter agentibus. [tredetsies]
[hard g]
Tam pro papa quam pro rege [hard g]
bibunt omnes sine lege. [hard g]

Bibit hera, bibit herus,
bibit miles, bibit clerus,
bibit ille, bibit illa,
bibit servis cum ancilla, [antsilla]
bibit velox, bibit piger, [hard g]
bibit albus, bibit niger, [hard g]
bibit constans, bibit vagus,
bibit rudis, bibit magus.

Bibit pauper et egrotus, [powper]
bibit exul et ignotus,
bibit puer, bibit canus, [oo not yoo]

bibit presul et decanus,
bibit soror, bibit frater,
bibit anus, bibit mater,
bibit ista, bibit ille,
bibunt centum, bibunt mille. [tsentum]

Parum sexcente nummate [seksente]
durant, cum immoderate
bibunt omnes sine meta.
Quamvis bibant mente leta,
sic nos rodunt omnes gentes [hard g]
et sic erimus egentes. [hard g]
Qui nos rodunt confundantur
et cum iustis non scribantur.

Cours d'amours

No. 15 – soprano solo & boys

No. 16 – baritone solo

No. 17 – soprano solo

**No. 18 Circa mea pectora –
baritone solo (italic) & chorus**

*Circa mea pectora
multa sunt suspiria
de tua pulchritudine
que me ledunt misere.*

Circa mea pectora [tsirka]
multa sunt suspiria

Manda liet, [leet]
Manda liet, [leet]
min geselle [gezelle]
chumet niet. [kommet neet]

*Tui lucent oculi
sicut solis radii,
sicut splendor fulguris
lucem donat tenebris.*

Tui lucent oculi [lutsent]
sicut solis radii,

Manda liet, [leet]
Manda liet, [leet]

min geselle [gezelle]
chumet niet. [kommet neet]

*Vellet deus, vellent dii
quod mente proposui:
ut eius virginea
reserassem vincula.*

Vellet deus, vellent dii
quod mente proposui:

Manda liet, [leet]
Manda liet, [leet]
min geselle [gezelle]
chumet niet. [kommet neet]

No. 19 Si puer – men's voices

Si puer cum puellula
moraretur in cellula, [tsellula]
Felix coniunctio [conyoonctsio]
Amore suscrescente [sucressente]
pariter e medio
Amore suscrescente [sucressente]
pariter e medio
avulso procul tedio,
fit ludus ineffabilis
membris, lacertis, labiis,
Si puer cum puellula
moraretur in cellula, [tsellula]

**No. 20 Veni, veni, venias –
double chorus**

Veni, veni, venias,
ne me mori facias, [fatsias]
hyrca, hyrce, nazaza, [hirka, hirke ...]
trillirivos ...

Pulchra tibi facies, [fatsiës]
oculorum acies, [atsiës]
capillorum series, [seriës]
o quam clara species! [spetsiës]

Rosa rubicundior,
lilio candidior,
omnibus formosior,
semper in te glorior!

No. 21 – soprano solo

No. 22 Tempus est iocundum – soprano & baritone soli & boys (*italic*) & chorus

Tempus est iocundum,
o virgines, [*hard g*]
modo congaudete
vos iuvenes. [*yoovenes*]

*Oh, oh, oh,
totus floreo,
iam amore virginali,
totus ardeo,
novus, novus amor
est, quo pereor.*

Mea me confortat
Promissio,
mea me deportat
negatio. [*negatsio*]

*Oh, oh, oh,
totus floreo,
iam amore virginali
totus ardeo,
novus, novus amor
est, quo pereor.*

Tempore brumali
vir patiens, [*patsiens*]
animo vernali
lasciviens. [*lassiviens*]

*Oh, oh, oh,
totus floreo,
iam amore virginali
totus ardeo,
novus, novus amor
est, quo pereor.*

Mea mecum ludit
Virginitas, [*hard g*]
mea me detrudit
simplicitas. [*simplitsitas*]

*Oh, oh, oh,
totus floreo,
iam amore virginali [*hard g*]
totus ardeo,
novus, novus amor
est, quo pereor.*

Veni, domicella, [*domitsella*]
cum gaudio,
veni, veni, pulchra,
iam pereor. [*yam*]

*Oh, oh, oh,
totus floreo,
iam amore virginali [*hard g*]
totus ardeo,
novus, novus amor
est, quo pereor.*

No. 23 – soprano solo

Blanziflor et Helena

No. 24. Ave formosissima

Ave formosissima,
gemma pretiosa, [*hard g*] [*pretsiosa*]
ave decus virginum, [*hard g*]
virgo gloriosa,
ave mundi luminar,
ave mundi rosa,
Blanziflor et Helena, [*blantsiflor*]
Venus generosa! [*Vaynus*] [*hard g*]

Fortuna imperatrix mundi

No. 25 O fortuna – text is identical with no.1