

Nesciens Mater

Walter Lambe
(Late 15th cen.)

The virgin mother, not knowing a man,

1 6

Soprano (S): Rests in measures 1-6.
Alto (A): Né - sci - ens má - - - - -
Tenor 1 (T1): Né - sci - ens má - - - - -
Tenor 2 (T2): Né - sci - ens má - - - - -
Bass (B): Rests in measures 1-6.

7 12

Soprano (S): Rests in measures 7-12.
Alto (A): - - - - - ter, né - sci - ens má -
Tenor 1 (T1): , né - sci - ens má - - - - - ter, né - sci - ens má -
Tenor 2 (T2): - - - - - ter, né - sci - ens má - - -
Bass (B): Rests in measures 7-12.

13 18

Soprano (S): Rests in measures 13-18.
Alto (A): - - - - - ter, né - sci - ens má - - - - - ter ...
Tenor 1 (T1): - - - - - ter, né - sci - ens má - - - - - ter ...
Tenor 2 (T2): - - - - - ter, né - sci - ens má - - - - - ter ...
Bass (B): Rests in measures 13-18.

...vír -

19 25

go ví - - - rum, vír - - go ví - - rum

go ví - - - rum, vír - - go ví - - rum

Detailed description: This system contains measures 19 through 25. It features a vocal line with lyrics and a bass line. The lyrics are: "go ví - - - rum, vír - - go ví - - rum". The music is in a key with one sharp (F#) and a common time signature. The vocal line has a melodic contour that rises and then falls. The bass line provides a steady accompaniment.

26 32

, vír - go ví - - - - - rum

, vír - go ví - - - - - rum

Detailed description: This system contains measures 26 through 32. The lyrics are: ", vír - go ví - - - - - rum". The musical notation continues with the vocal line and bass line. The lyrics are split across the vocal line and the bass line.

bore, without pain,

33 39

pé - pe - - rit sí - ne do -

pé - pe - rit sí - - - ne do - - - - -

pé - - pe - - - rit

pé -

Detailed description: This system contains measures 33 through 39. It begins with the instruction *bore, without pain,*. The lyrics are: "pé - pe - - rit sí - ne do -". The music continues with the vocal line and bass line. The lyrics are split across the vocal line and the bass line. The system ends with the word "pé -".

Him, the king

63

69

cu - ló - - - rum . I - - - - psum ré - - - -
- - - - rum. I - - - - psum ré - - - -
- - - - ló - - - - rum...
-rum...
-ló - rum...

Detailed description: This block contains the first system of musical notation, measures 63 through 69. It features five staves: a vocal line with lyrics, a piano accompaniment line, a tenor line, a bass line, and a double bass line. The key signature has one sharp (F#). The lyrics are: 'cu - ló - - - rum . I - - - - psum ré - - - -', '- - - - rum. I - - - - psum ré - - - -', '- - - - ló - - - - rum...', '-rum...', and '-ló - rum...'. Measure numbers 63 and 69 are indicated above the first and last measures of the system respectively.

70

76

gem, í - - - psum, í - psum ré - - - -
gem, í - - - - psum, í - psum ré - - - -

Detailed description: This block contains the second system of musical notation, measures 70 through 76. It features five staves: a vocal line with lyrics, a piano accompaniment line, a tenor line, a bass line, and a double bass line. The key signature has one sharp (F#). The lyrics are: 'gem, í - - - psum, í - psum ré - - - -' and 'gem, í - - - - psum, í - psum ré - - - -'. Measure numbers 70 and 76 are indicated above the first and last measures of the system respectively.

of angels,

77

82

gem...
gem...
an - ge - ló - - - - rum, an - ge -
an - geló
an - ge - ló - - - -

Detailed description: This block contains the third system of musical notation, measures 77 through 82. It features five staves: a vocal line with lyrics, a piano accompaniment line, a tenor line, a bass line, and a double bass line. The key signature changes to two sharps (F# and C#). The lyrics are: 'gem...', 'gem...', 'an - ge - ló - - - - rum, an - ge -', 'an - geló', and 'an - ge - ló - - - -'. Measure numbers 77 and 82 are indicated above the first and last measures of the system respectively.

83 88

-l6 - - rum, an-gel6 - - rum, an - - ge-l6 - - - - rum
 - rum, an - ge-l6 - - - - rum,

89 94

, an - - - - - gel6 - - rum
 an - ge-l6 rum, an - ge-l6-rum

-l6 - - - - rum, an-ge-l6 - - rum, an - - ge-l6 - rum

only the virgin

suckled,

95 102

s6-la v6r - - - go lac - t6 - - bat
 s6 - - la v6r - go lac - t6 - - -
 s6-la v6r - - - go lac - - - -
 s6-la v6r - - - go lac - - - -

breasts filled by heaven.

103

ú - be - ra de caé - lo plé - na, de caé -
 -bat ú - be - ra de caé - lo plé - na, de caé -
 -bat ú - be - ra de caé - - - - lo, de
 - tá - - - - bat ú - be -

109

110

- lo plé - - - na, ú - be - ra, ú - be - ra
 - - - - lo plé - - - na, ú - be - ra, ú - be - ra
 caé - lo plé - - - na, lac - tá - - - bat ú - be - ra,
 - - - - - ra de caé - - - -
 - na, lac - - - tá - - - - bat

117

118

de caé - - - - lo plé - - - - na.
 de caé - - - - lo plé - - - - na.
 ú - - - be - ra de caé - lo plé - - - na.
 - lo plé - - - - na.
 ú - be - - - ra de caé - - - - lo plé - - - - na.

124

Source: *The Eton Choirbook* (Part III), vol. XII of *Musica Britannica*, ed. Frank Ll. Harrison, Stainer & Bell, London, 1961. Original time signature is cut circle for first tenor, circle for the other parts. We raised the notation a tone and halved the time values. Text underlay, *musica ficta* and translation by John Hetland and The Renaissance Street Singers.