

## Carmina Burana

### FORTUNA IMPERATIX MUNDI

#### 1. O Fortuna

O Fortuna,  
velut Luna  
statu variabilis,  
semper crescis  
aut decrescis;  
vita detestabilis  
nunc obdurat  
et tunc curat  
ludo mentis aciem;  
egestatem,  
potestatem,  
dissolvit ut glaciem.

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

Sors salutis  
et virtutis  
mihi nunc contraria;  
est affectus  
et defectus

*O Fortune,  
like the moon  
you are changeable,  
ever waxing  
and waning;  
hateful life  
first oppresses  
and then soothes  
as fancy takes it;  
poverty  
and power  
it melts them like ice.*

*Fate - monstrous  
and empty,  
you whirling wheel,  
you are malevolent,  
well-being is vain  
and always fades to nothing,  
shadowed  
and veiled  
you plague me too;  
now through the game  
I bring my bare back  
to your villainy.*

*Fate is against me  
in health  
and virtue,  
driven on  
and weighted down,*

semper in angaria.  
hac in hora  
sine mora  
cordae pulsum tangite!  
quod per sortem  
sternit fortem,  
mecum omnes plangite!

*always enslaved.  
So at this hour  
without delay  
pluck the vibrating strings;  
since Fate  
strikes down the strong man,  
everyone weep with me!*

## 2. Fortune plango vulnera

Fortunae plango vulnera  
stillantibus ocellis,  
quod sua mihi munera  
subtrahit rebellis.  
verum est, quod legitur  
fronte capillata,  
sed plerumque sequitur

*I bemoan the wounds of Fortune  
with weeping eyes,  
for the gifts she made me  
she perversely takes away.  
It is written in truth,  
that she has a fine head of hair,  
but, when it comes to seizing an  
opportunity  
she is bald.*

Occasio calvata.

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

*On Fortune's throne  
I used to sit raised up,  
crowned with  
the many-colored flowers of prosperity;  
though I may have flourished  
happy and blessed,  
now I fall from the peak  
deprived of glory.*

Fortunae rota volvitur;  
descendo minoratus;  
alter in altum tollitur;  
nimis exaltatus  
rex sedet in vertice  
caveat ruinam!  
nam sub axe legimus  
Hecubam reginam.

*The wheel of Fortune turns;  
I go down, demeaned;  
another is raised up;  
far too high up  
sits the king at the summit -  
let him fear ruin!  
for under the axis is written  
Queen Hecuba.*

## I. PRIMO VERE

### 3. Veris leta facies

Veris laeta facies

*The merry face of spring*

mundo propinquatur.  
Hiemalis acies  
victa iam fugatur.  
in vestitu vario  
Flora principatur,  
nemorum dulcisono  
quae cantu celebratur.

Florae fusus gremio  
Phoebus novo more  
risum dat, hoc vario  
iam stipatae flore.  
Zephyrus nectareo  
spirans it odore.  
certatim pro bravo  
curramus in amore.

Cytharizat cantico  
dulcis Philomena.  
flore rident vario  
prata iam serena.  
salit coetus avium  
silvae per amoena.  
chorus promit virginum  
iam gaudia millena.

#### 4. Omnia sol temperat

Omnia Sol temperat  
purus et subtilis;  
novo mundo reserat  
facies Aprilis,  
ad amorem properat  
animus herilis,  
et iocundis imperat  
deus puerilis.

Rerum tanta novitas  
in sollemni Vere  
et Veris auctoritas  
iubet nos gaudere;  
vias praebet solitas;  
et in tuo Vere

*turns to the world,  
sharp winter  
now flees, vanquished;  
bedecked in various colors  
Flora reigns,  
the harmony of the woods  
praises her in song.*

*Lying in Flora's lap  
Phoebus once more  
smiles, now covered  
in many-colored flowers,  
Zephyr breathes nectar-  
scented breezes.  
Let us rush to compete  
for love's prize.*

*In harp-like tones sings  
the sweet nightingale,  
with many flowers  
the joyous meadows are laughing,  
a flock of birds rises up  
through the pleasant forests,  
the chorus of maidens  
already promises a thousand joys.*

*The sun warms everything,  
pure and gentle,  
once again it reveals to the world  
April's face,  
the soul of man  
is urged towards love  
and joys are governed  
by the boy-god.*

*All this rebirth  
in spring's festivity  
and spring's power  
bids us to rejoice;  
it shows us paths we know well,  
and in your springtime*

fides est et probitas  
tuum retinere.

Ama me fideliter!  
fidem meam nota;  
de corde totaliter  
et ex mente tota  
sum praesentialiter  
absens in remota.  
Quisquis amat taliter,  
volvitur in rota.

### 5. Ecce gratum

Ecce gratum  
et optatum  
Ver reducit gaudia.  
purpuratum  
florete pratum.  
Sol serenat omnia.  
iam iam cedant tristia!  
Aestas redit,  
nunc recedit  
Hiemis saevitia.

Iam liquescit  
et decrescit  
grando, nix et cetera.  
Bruma fugit,  
et iam sugit  
Ver Aestatis ubera.  
illi mens est misera,  
qui nec vivit,  
nec lascivit  
sub Aestatis dextera.

Gloriantur  
et laetantur  
in melle dulcedinis  
qui conantur,  
ut utantur  
praemio Cupidinis.  
simus iussu Cypridis

*it is true and right  
to keep what is yours.*

*Love me faithfully!  
See how I am faithful:  
with all my heart  
and with all my soul,  
I am with you  
even when I am far away.  
Whoever loves this much  
turns on the wheel.*

*Behold, the pleasant  
and longed-for  
spring brings back joyfulness,  
violet flowers  
fill the meadows,  
the sun brightens everything,  
sadness is now at an end!  
Summer returns,  
now withdraw  
the rigors of winter.*

*Now melts  
and disappears  
ice, snow and the rest,  
winter flees,  
and now spring  
sucks at summer's breast:  
a wretched soul is he  
who does not live  
or lust  
under summer's rule.*

*They glory  
and rejoice  
in honeyed sweetness  
who strive  
to make use of  
Cupid's prize;  
at Venus' command*

gloriantes et  
laetantes  
pares esse Paradis.

*let us glory  
and rejoice  
in being Paris' equals.*

UF DEM ANGER

6. Tanz (Dance)

7. Floret silva nobilis

Floret silva nobilis  
floribus et foliis.  
ubi est antiquus  
meus amicus?  
hinc equitavit.  
eia, quis me amabit?

*The noble woods are burgeoning  
with flowers and leaves.  
Where is the lover  
I knew?  
He has ridden off!  
Oh! Who will love me?*

Floret silva undique.  
Nach mime gesellen ist mir we.  
Gruonet der walt allenthalben,  
wa ist min geselle also lange?  
Der ist geriten hinnen.  
Owi, wer sol mich minnen?

*The woods are burgeoning all over,  
I am pining for my lover.  
The woods are turning green all over,  
why is my lover away so long?  
He has ridden off,  
Oh woe, who will love me?*

8. Chramer, gip die varwe mir

Chramer, gip die varwe mir  
die min wengel roete,  
damit ich die jungen man  
an ir dank der minnenliebe noete.  
Seht mich an, jungen man!  
Lat mich iu gevallen!

*Shopkeeper, give me color  
to make my cheeks red,  
so that I can make the young men  
love me, against their will.  
Look at me, young men!  
Let me please you!*

Minnet, tugentliche man,  
minnechliche vrouwen!  
Minne tuot iu hoch genuot  
unde lat iuch in hohen eren  
schouwen.

*Good men, love  
women worthy of love!  
Love ennobles your spirit  
and gives you honor.*

Seht mich an, jungen man!  
Lat mich iu gevallen!

*Look at me, young men!  
Let me please you!*

Wol die, werlt, das du bist  
also freudenriche!

*Hail, world,  
so rich in joys!*

Ich wil dir sin undertan  
durch din liebe immer sicherliche.  
Seht mich an, jungen man!  
Lat mich iu gevallen!

*I will be obedient to you  
because of the pleasures you afford.  
Look at me, young men!  
Let me please you!*

### 9. Reie (Round dance)

Swaz hie gat umbe

Swaz hie gat umbe,  
daz sint allez megede,  
die wellent an man  
alle disen sumer gan.

*Those who go round and round  
are all maidens,  
they want to do without a man  
all summer long.*

Chume, chum, geselle min

*Chume, chum, geselle min*

Chume, chum, geselle min,  
ih enbite harte din,  
ih enbite harte din,  
chume, chum, geselle min.

*Come, come, my love,  
I long for you,  
I long for you,  
come, come, my love.*

Suozer rosenvarwer munt,  
chum unde mache mich gesunt,  
chum unde mache mich gesunt,  
suozer rosenvarwer munt.

*Sweet rose-red lips,  
come and make me better,  
come and make me better,  
sweet rose-red lips.*

Swaz hie gat umbe (da capo)

*Swaz hie gat umbe (da capo)*

### 10. Were diu werlt alle min

Were diu werlt alle min  
von dem mere unze an den Rin,  
des wolt ih mih darben  
daz diu chunegin von Engellant  
lege an minen armen.

*Were all the world mine  
from the sea to the Rhine,  
I would starve myself of it  
so that the queen of England  
might lie in my arms.*

## II. IN TABERNA

### 11. Estuans interius

Estuans interius  
ira vehementi  
in amaritudine  
loquor meae menti;  
factus de materia,

### 11. Estuans interius

*Burning inside  
with violent anger,  
bitterly  
I speak to my heart:  
created from matter,*

cinis elementi,  
similis sum folio,  
de quo ludunt venti.

*of the ashes of the elements,  
I am like a leaf  
played with by the winds.*

Cum sit enim proprium  
viro sapienti  
supra petram ponere  
sedem fundamenti,  
stultus ego comparor  
fluvio labenti  
sub eodem tramite  
numquam permanenti.

*If it is the way  
of the wise man  
to build  
foundations on stone,  
the I am a fool, like  
a flowing stream,  
which in its course  
never changes.*

Feror ego veluti  
sine nauta navis,  
ut per vias aeris  
vaga fertur avis;  
non me tenent vincula,  
non me tenet clavis;  
quaero mihi similes,  
et adiungor pravis.

*I am carried along  
like a ship without a steersman,  
and in the paths of the air  
like a light, hovering bird;  
chains cannot hold me,  
keys cannot imprison me,  
I look for people like me  
and join the wretches.*

Mihi cordis gravitas  
res videtur gravis;  
iocus est amabilis  
dulciorque favis;  
quicquid Venus imperat,  
labor est suavis,  
quae numquam in cordibus  
habitat ignavis.

*The heaviness of my heart  
seems like a burden to me;  
it is pleasant to joke  
and sweeter than honeycomb;  
whatever Venus commands  
is a sweet duty,  
she never dwells  
in a lazy heart.*

Via lata gradior  
more iuventutis,  
implicor et vitiis  
immemor virtutis,  
voluptatis avidus  
magis quam salutis,  
mortuus in anima  
curam gero cutis.

*I travel the broad path  
as is the way of youth,  
I give myself to vice,  
unmindful of virtue,  
I am eager for the pleasures of the flesh  
more than for salvation,  
my soul is dead,  
so I shall look after the flesh.*

## 12. Cignus ustus cantat

Olim lacus colueram,

*Once I lived on lakes,*

olim pulcher exstiteram,  
dum cygnus ego fueram.  
Miser, miser!  
modo niger  
et ustus fortiter!

*once I looked beautiful  
when I was a swan.  
Misery me!  
Now black  
and roasting fiercely!*

Girat, regirat garcifer;  
me rogos urit fortiter;  
propinat me nunc dapifer.  
Miser, miser!  
modo niger  
et ustus fortiter!

*The servant is turning me on the spit;  
I am burning fiercely on the pyre:  
the steward now serves me up.  
Misery me!  
Now black  
and roasting fiercely!*

Nunc in scutella iaceo,  
et volitare nequeo;  
dentes frendentes video.  
Miser, miser!  
modo niger  
et ustus fortiter!

*Now I lie on a plate,  
and cannot fly anymore,  
I see bared teeth:  
Misery me!  
Now black  
and roasting fiercely!*

### 13. Ego sum abbas

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

*I am the abbot of Cockaigne  
and my assembly is one of drinkers,  
and I wish to be in the order of Decius,  
and whoever searches me out at the tavern  
in the morning,  
after Vespers he will leave naked,  
and thus stripped of his clothes he will call  
out:*

Wafna, wafna!  
quid fecisti, Sors turpissima?  
nostrae vitae gaudia  
abstulisti omnia!

*Woe! Woe!  
what have you done, vilest Fate?  
the joys of my life  
you have taken all away!*

### 14. In taberna quando sumus

In taberna quando sumus,  
non curamus quid sit humus,  
sed ad ludum properamus,  
cui semper insudamus.  
quid agatur in taberna  
ubi nummus est pincerna,

*When we are in the tavern,  
we do not think how we will go to dust,  
but we hurry to gamble,  
which always makes us sweat.  
What happens in the tavern,  
where money is hoard,*

hoc est opus ut quaeratur;  
si quid loquar, audiatur.

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.

Primo pro nummata vini;  
ex hac bibunt libertini;  
semel bibunt pro captivis,  
post haec bibunt ter pro vivis,  
quater pro Christianis cunctis,  
quingies pro fidelibus defunctis,  
sexies pro sororibus vanis,  
septies pro militibus silvanis.  
octies pro fratribus perversis,  
nonies pro monachis dispersis,  
decies pro navigantibus,  
undecies pro discordantibus,  
duodecies pro paenitentibus,  
tredecies pro iter agentibus.

Tam pro papa quam pro rege  
bibunt omnes sine lege.  
Bibit hera, bibit herus,  
bibit miles, bibit clerus,  
bibit ille, bibit illa,  
bibit servus cum ancilla,  
bibit velox, bibit piger,  
  
bibit albus, bibit niger,  
  
bibit constans, bibit vagus,  
  
bibit rudis, bibit magus,

*you may well ask,  
and bear what I say.*

*Some gamble, some drink,  
some behave loosely.  
But of those who gamble,  
some are stripped bare,  
some win their clothes here,  
some are dressed in sacks.  
Here no one fears death,  
but they throw the dice in the name of  
Bacchus.*

*First of all it is to the wine-merchant  
the libertines drink,  
one for the prisoners,  
three for the living,  
four for all Christians,  
five for the faithful dead,  
six for the loose sisters,  
seven for the footpads in the wood,  
eight for the errant brethren,  
nine for the dispersed monks,  
ten for the seamen,  
eleven for the squabblers,  
twelve for the penitent,  
thirteen for the wayfarers.*

*To the Pope as to the king  
they all drink without restraint.  
The mistress drinks, the master drinks,  
the soldier drinks, the priest drinks,  
the man drinks, the woman drinks,  
the servant drinks with the maid,  
the swift man drinks, the lazy man  
drinks,  
the white man drinks, the black man  
drinks,  
the settled man drinks, the wanderer  
drinks,  
the stupid man drinks, the wise man  
drinks,*

bibit pauper et aegrotus,  
bibit exul et ignotus,  
bibit puer, bibit canus,  
bibit praesul et decanus,  
bibit soror, bibit frater,  
bibit anus, bibit mater,  
bibit ista, bibit ille,  
bibunt centum, bibunt mille.

Parum sescentae nummatae  
durant cum immoderate  
bibunt omnes sine meta,  
quamvis bibant mente laeta;  
sic nos rodunt omnes gentes,  
et sic erimus egentes.  
qui nos rodunt confundantur  
et cum iustis non scribantur.

### III. COUR D'AMOURS

#### 15. Amor volat undique

Amor volat undique,  
captus est libidine.  
iuvenes, iuvenulae,  
coniunguntur merito.  
siqua sine socio,  
caret omni gaudio;  
tenet noctis infima  
sub intimo  
cordis in custodia;  
fit res amarissima.

#### 16. Dies, nox et omnia

Dies, nox, et omnia  
mihi sunt contraria;  
virginum colloquia  
me fay planszer,  
oy suvenz suspirer,  
plu me fay temer.

*the poor man drinks, the sick man drinks,  
the exile drinks, and the stranger,  
the boy drinks, the old man drinks,  
the bishop drinks, and the deacon,  
the sister drinks, the brother drinks,  
the old lady drinks, the mother drinks,  
this man drinks, that man drinks,  
a hundred drink, a thousand drink.*

*Six hundred pennies would hardly  
suffice, if everyone  
drinks immoderately and immeasurably.  
However much they cheerfully drink  
we are the ones whom everyone scolds,  
and thus we are destitute.  
May those who slander us be cursed  
and may their names not be written in the  
book of the righteous.*

*Cupid flies everywhere  
seized by desire.  
Young men and women  
are rightly coupled.  
The girl without a lover  
misses out on all pleasures,  
she keeps the dark night  
hidden  
in the depth of her heart;  
it is a most bitter fate.*

*Day, night and everything  
is against me,  
the chattering of maidens  
makes me weep,  
and often sigh,  
and, most of all, scares me.*

O sodales, ludite,  
vos qui scitis dicite,  
mihi maestro parcite,  
grand ey dolur,  
attamen consulite  
per voster honor.

Tua pulchra facies,  
me fay planszer milies,  
pectus habens glacies,  
a ramender  
statim vivus  
fierem per un baser.

### 17. Stetit puella

Stetit puella  
rufa tunica;  
si quis eam tetigit,  
tunica crepuit.  
eia!

stetit puella,  
tamquam rosula;  
facie splenduit,  
os eius floruit.  
eia!

### 18. Circa mea pectora

Circa mea pectora  
multa sunt suspiria  
de tua pulchritudine,  
quae me laedunt misere.  
Manda liet, manda liet,  
min geselle  
chumet niet.

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

*O friends, you are making fun of me,  
you do not know what you are saying,  
spare me, sorrowful as I am,  
great is my grief,  
advise me at least,  
by your honor.*

*Your beautiful face,  
makes me weep a thousand times,  
your heart is of ice.  
As a cure,  
I would be revived  
by a kiss.*

*A girl stood  
in a red tunic;  
if anyone touched it,  
the tunic rustled.  
Eia!*

*A girl stood  
like a little rose:  
her face was radiant  
and her mouth in bloom.  
Eia!*

*In my heart  
there are many sighs  
for your beauty,  
which wound me sorely.  
Mandaliet, mandaliet,  
my lover  
does not come.*

*Your eyes shine  
like the rays of the sun,  
like the flashing of lightning  
which brightens the darkness.*

Manda liet, manda liet,  
min geselle  
chumet niet.

Vellet Deus, vellent dii,  
quod mente proposui,  
ut eius virginea  
reserassem vincula.  
Manda liet, manda liet,  
min geselle  
chumet niet.

### 19. Si puer cum puellula

Si puer cum puellula  
moraretur in cellula,  
felix coniunctio.  
Amore succrescente,  
pariter e medio  
propulso procul taedio,  
fit ludus ineffabilis  
membris, lacertis, labiis.

### 20. Veni, veni, venias

Veni, veni, venias,  
ne me mori facias,  
hyrcā, hyrcē, nazara;  
trilirivos.

Pulchra tibi facies,  
oculorum acies,  
capillorum series;  
o quam clara species!

Rosa rubicundior,  
Lilio candidior,  
omnibus formosior;  
semper in te glorior!

### 21. In truitina

In trutina mentis dubia  
fluctuant contraria

*Mandaliet, mandaliet,  
my lover  
does not come.*

*May God grant, may the gods grant  
what I have in mind:  
that I may loose  
the chains of her virginity.  
Mandaliet, mandaliet,  
my lover  
does not come.*

*If a boy with a girl  
tarries in a little room,  
happy is their coupling.  
Love rises up,  
and between them  
prudery is driven away,  
an ineffable game begins  
in their limbs, arms and lips.*

*Come, come, O come  
do not let me die,  
hyrcā, hyrcē, nazāra,  
trillirivos!*

*Beautiful is your face,  
the gleam of your eye,  
your braided hair,  
what a glorious creature!*

*Redder than the rose,  
whiter than the lily,  
lovelier than all others,  
I shall always glory in you!*

*In the wavering balance of my feelings  
set against each other*

lascivus amor et pudicitia.  
Sed eligo quod video,  
collum iugo praebeo;  
ad iugum tam suave transeo.

*lascivious love and modesty.  
But I choose what I see,  
and submit my neck to the yoke;  
I yield to the sweet yoke.*

## 22. Tempus es iocundum

Tempus est iocundum,  
o virgines,  
modo congaudete  
vos iuvenes.

*This is the joyful time,  
O maidens,  
rejoice with them,  
young men!*

Oh - oh, totus floreo,  
iam amore virginali  
totus ardeo,  
novus, novus amor est,  
quo pereo.

*Oh! Oh! I am bursting out all over!  
I am burning all over with first love!  
New, new love  
is what I  
am dying of!*

Mea me confortat  
promissio,  
mea me deportat  
negatio.

*I am heartened  
by my promise,  
I am downcast by my refusal  
by my refusal.*

Oh - oh, totus floreo ...

*Oh! Oh! I am bursting out all over! ...*

Tempore brumali  
vir patiens,  
animo vernali  
lasciviens.

*In the winter  
man is patient,  
the breath of spring  
makes him lust.*

Oh - oh, totus floreo ...

*Oh! Oh! I am bursting out all over! ...*

Mea mecum ludit  
virginitas,  
mea me detrudit  
simplicitas.

*My virginity  
makes me frisky,  
my simplicity  
holds me back.*

Oh - oh, totus floreo ...

*Oh! Oh! I am bursting out all over! ...*

Veni, domicella,  
cum gaudio;  
veni, veni, pulchra,  
iam pereo.

*Come, my mistress,  
with joy,  
come, come, my pretty,  
I am dying!*

Oh - oh, totus floreo ...

*Oh! Oh! I am bursting out all over! ...*

23. Dulcissime

Dulcissime,  
totam tibi subdo me!

*Sweetest one!  
I give myself to you totally!*

BLANZIFOR ET HELENA

24. Ave formosissima

Ave formosissima,  
gemma pretiosa,  
ave, decus virginum,  
virgo gloriosa,  
ave, mundi luminar,  
ave, mundi rosa,  
Blanziflor et Helena,  
Venus generosa.

*Hail, most beautiful one,  
precious jewel,  
Hail, pride among virgins,  
glorious virgin,  
Hail, light of the world,  
Hail, rose of the world,  
Blanchefleur and Helen,  
noble Venus!*

FORTUNA IMPERATIX MUNDI

25. O Fortuna

*N<sup>o</sup> 1 da capo*