Ave Maria

Edited by Jason Smart
Robert Parsons (d.1572)

© Jason Smart 2020
-cta tu, be-ne-di-c\(\text{-}\)cta tu

be-ne-di-c\(\text{-}\)ta\(\text{-}\)ta tu, be-ne-di-c\(\text{-}\)ta

be-ne-di-c\(\text{-}\)ta\(\text{-}\)ta tu, be-ne-di-c\(\text{-}\)ta

be-ne-di-c\(\text{-}\)ta\(\text{-}\)ta tu, be-ne-di-c\(\text{-}\)ta

in mu-li-e-ri-bus, et be-ne-

e-ri-bus, in mu-li-e-ri-bus, et

tu in mu-li-e-ri-bus, in mu-li-e-ri-bus,

in mu-li-e-ri-bus,

di-ctus fru-ctus ven-tris tu-

di-ctus fru-ctus ven-tris tu-

di-ctus fru-ctus ven-tris tu-

et be-ne-di-c\(\text{-}\)ctus fru-ctus ven-tris tu-i,

et be-ne-di-c\(\text{-}\)ctus fru-ctus ven-tris

et be-ne-di-c\(\text{-}\)ctus fru-ctus ven-tris

et be-ne-di-c\(\text{-}\)ctus fru-ctus ven-tris
Hail, Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee. Blessed art thou amongst women and blessed is the fruit of thy womb. Amen.

Notes on the Readings of the Sources

The scribe of A, Robert Dow, often altered the underlay of the music he copied in order to provide what he considered to be better word accentuation. Although he did this with good taste, it nevertheless follows that his copies do not always convey what the composers intended. In Ave Maria, his editorial hand is most obvious in the second half of the piece. Bars 49–57 are a repeat of bars 40–48 with the two countertenor parts exchanged. At bar 51 Dow omits B’s repeat of the underlay in Ct2 and combines the two minim Gs into a semibreve. However, in the Ct1 at bar 42 he failed to make the same adjustment. Here his Ct1 matches B’s Ct2 in bar 51, revealing this to be the correct reading for both voices. At bars 46–48 Dow’s Ct1 has no underlay and he combines the two minim Ds in bar 47 into a semibreve. Yet in the parallel passage in the Ct2 at bars 55–57, while he again omits the underlay, he retains the two minim Ds, revealing that the reading in B is correct. In bar 55 he wrote the syllable -i below the Eb in Ct2 (thus agreeing with B), but changed his mind, cancelled it and omitted the ensuing repetition of fructus ventris tu-. Other repeated notes without underlay in A also suggest that text has been expunged from this source rather than added to B. In the opening bars of the Ct2, Dow omits the repeat of Ave Maria and combines the two semibreves in bar 4 into a single breve. This suggests that, in Ct1, Dow’s tied breves in bars 5–6 may well be the result of combining two, or even three, notes of the same pitch; in this edition they have been separated into two breves.

Source B, the only survivor from a set of five or six partbooks, is a much more reliable source. It has been used as the copy text for the Ct2 and A’s readings for the other voices amended as necessary to reconstruct a conjectural reading of the lost partbooks of B.

In each section below the readings are listed by source. Each reference to a bar or group of bars is separated by an oblique stroke and multiple readings in the same voice are separated by a comma. The order within each entry is: (1) bar number(s); (2) voice; (3) reading of the source, with any subsequent bars number for extended readings in brackets. Pitches are given in capital letters, preceded by a number if necessary, e.g. 1E = first note E in the bar.

Abbreviations

amb ambiguously placed  Ct1, Ct2 Countertenor 1, 2 m minim T Tenor
B Bass dot- dotted om omitted + tie
conj (syllables) conjoined lig ligature sb semibreve urses underlay repeat sign
cr crotchet M Mean sl slur

Accidentals

A: 1 Ct2 sl for GA / 2–9 Ct2 -a ave Maria Mari- om. (4) bF for sbF sbF / 3 Ct1 sl for BC: B sl for GA / 4–5 T sl for DE / 16 Ct1 sl for 1DF; Ct2 × (for gratia ple-) below A / 23 Ct2 × (for Dominus te-) below C / 25–26 T Dominus te- below CDEF. (26) sl for FG / 26 B Dominus te- amb below CDEF / 28–30 B Dominus te- amb below GABG / 29–31 Ct2 Dominus tecum given as in the edition, (30) sl for GCD / 31 T sl for A of 33 Ct1 benedicta begins below rest, so tu in 32 perhaps intended for D / 35 Ct2 sbC is mC mC, (35–36) -dicta one note earlier: (35) T tu below G (not in 38) / 38 Ct1 muti- conj below DEF; Ct2 × below C / 39–40 M new line in source begins with 1F, -ribus conj and slightly indented to fall below 2GE2F / 42–45 M fructus ventris tu- amb below D+DDD+DCBBA / 44–47 Ct2 -i fructus ventris tu × om. (47–48) E+E, (49) -i below A / 45 Ct1 dot-sbF for mF sbF, tu- below C (reading of B in 54 adopted) / 47–48 T sl for EFGE, -tris tu- one note later (but cf. 56–57) / 47–49 M fructus ventris tu amb below GGGGEF / 51–52 Ct2 -ctus et benedi- om, (51) sbG for mgG mgG / 54 Ct2 dot-sbF for mF sbF, tu- below C / 55 Ct2 -i below E but cancelled, (56–57) fructus ventris tu- om (but md md retained) / 57 M ventris conj below 1GE2G, (57–58) tu conj below mlE EF; (57) T tu conj below FG / 63 Ct2 × (for A-) below C / 64 Ct2 no lig / 67 Ct2 × (for A-) below 2F / 72 Ct2 × for A- below A / 73 Ct2 no lig / 

B: 36 Ct2 sl for ABC, (37) hairline from tu to F / 55 Ct2 sl for EC /

Underlay and Ligatures

A: 1 Ct2 sl for GA / 2–9 Ct2 -a ave Maria Mari- om. (4) bF for sbF sbF / 3 Ct1 sl for BC: B sl for GA / 4–5 T sl for DE / 16 Ct1 sl for 1DF; Ct2 × (for gratia ple-) below A / 23 Ct2 × (for Dominus te-) below C / 25–26 T Dominus te- below CDEF. (26) sl for FG / 26 B Dominus te- amb below CDEF / 28–30 B Dominus te- amb below GABG / 29–31 Ct2 Dominus tecum given as in the edition, (30) sl for GCD / 31 T sl for A of 33 Ct1 benedicta begins below rest, so tu in 32 perhaps intended for D / 35 Ct2 sbC is mC mC, (35–36) -dicta one note earlier: (35) T tu below G (not in 38) / 38 Ct1 muti- conj below DEF; Ct2 × below C / 39–40 M new line in source begins with 1F, -ribus conj and slightly indented to fall below 2GE2F / 42–45 M fructus ventris tu- amb below D+DDD+DCBBA / 44–47 Ct2 -i fructus ventris tu × om. (47–48) E+E, (49) -i below A / 45 Ct1 dot-sbF for mF sbF, tu- below C (reading of B in 54 adopted) / 47–48 T sl for EFGE, -tris tu- one note later (but cf. 56–57) / 47–49 M fructus ventris tu amb below GGGGEF / 51–52 Ct2 -ctus et benedi- om, (51) sbG for mgG mgG / 54 Ct2 dot-sbF for mF sbF, tu- below C / 55 Ct2 -i below E but cancelled, (56–57) fructus ventris tu- om (but md md retained) / 57 M ventris conj below 1GE2G, (57–58) tu conj below mlE EF; (57) T tu conj below FG / 63 Ct2 × (for A-) below C / 64 Ct2 no lig / 67 Ct2 × (for A-) below 2F / 72 Ct2 × for A- below A / 73 Ct2 no lig / 

B: 36 Ct2 sl for ABC, (37) hairline from tu to F / 55 Ct2 sl for EC /