Guillaume Du Fay

Opera Omnia 01/03

Anima mea liquefacta est

Edited by Alejandro Enrique Planchart



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Sources

Q15 (I), fols. A 268v-269r, R 239v-240, M 265, "Du fay." Full black notation with void coloration.

Ox 213(2), fols. 27v-28r, "G. dufay conposuit."

Tr 87₁, fols. 157v-158r, "dufay."

Clefs and mensurations

		1
Cantus 1	c3	-
Cantus2	c3	-
Tenor	F4	•

Text

Anima mea liquefacta est, ut dilectus locutus est; quaesivi et non inveni illum; vocavi et non respondit mihi. Invenerunt me custodes civitatis: percusserunt me et vulneraverunt me, tulerunt pallium meum custodes murorum: filiae Ierusalem, nuntiate dilecto quia amore langueo.

My soul melted as he spoke. I sought him and I did not find him; I called and he did not answer. The watchmen found me who go about the city; they beat me and wounded me. The guardians of the walls took my cloak from me. I adjure you, daughters of Jerusalem: if you find my beloved, tell him I languish for love.

The plainsong is paraphrased in all voices. This antiphon is not in common use in the modern liturgy, although the *Processionale monasticum* includes it among the antiphons to the BVM *per annum*¹. Its earliest function was as a magnificat antiphon for the Assumption or the Nativity of the Virgin (cf. CAO no. 1418); at Cambrai it was used as a magnificat antiphon on the Octave of the Assumption, while in northern Italy in the early fifteenth century it was most frequently used as one of the vespers antiphons on the Assumption. Du Fay's setting is a relatively large scale work, which probably means he meant it as a cantilena motet, that is, as a basically paraliturgical work to be sung at one of the many special offices that were being endowed at the time.

None of the sources has a mensuration sign, and none is really required since the work is entirely in perfect time and minor modus, that is all the breves are grouped in pairs. The movement is in breves and semibreves, and this kind of perfect time was most often signed as Φ when it was signed, although this sign is virtually never found in Du Fay's music as an initial mensuration. In all likelihood the composer assumed that even the first glance at the notation would tell the performer that a very fast tempo for the semibreve was required. The tempo should be between MM 60 and 80 for the perfect breve.

¹ Processionale monasticum ad usum congregationis gallicae Ordinis Sancti Benedicti (Solesmes: Abbaye de Saint-Pierre, 1893), 275.