

## Carmina Burana (Translation)

### 1. Fortuna Imperatrix Mundi (Fortune, Empress of the World)

#### O Fortuna (Chorus) O Fortune

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.

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.

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

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.

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

Fate is against me  
in health  
and virtue,  
driven on  
and weighted down,  
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 (I bemoan the wounds of Fortune)

Fortune plango vulnera  
stillantibus ocellis  
quod sua michi munera  
subtrahit rebellis.  
Verum est, quod legitur,  
fronte capillata,  
sed plerumque sequitur  
Occasio calvata.

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.

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

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

Fortune rota volvitur:  
descendo minoratus;

The wheel of Fortune turns;  
I go down, demeaned;

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

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.

### Primo Vere (Spring)

#### 3 Veris leta facies (The merry face of spring)

Veris leta facies  
mundo propinatur,  
hiemalis acies  
victa iam fugatur,  
in vestitu vario  
Flora principatur,  
nemorum dulcisono  
que cantu celebratur.

The merry face of spring  
turns to the world,  
sharp winter  
now flees, vanquished;  
bedecked in various colours  
Flora reigns,  
the harmony of the woods  
praises her in song. Ah!

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

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

Cytharizat cantico  
dulcis Philomena,  
flore rident vario  
prata iam serena,  
salit cetus avium  
silve per amena,  
chorus promit virgin  
iam gaudia millena.

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. Ah!

#### 4 Omnia sol temperat

#### (The sun warms everything)

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

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.

Rerum tanta novitas  
in solemnibus vere  
et veris auctoritas  
jubet nos gaudere;  
vias prebet solitas,  
et in tuo vere  
fides est et probitas  
tuum retinere.

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  
it is true and right  
to keep what is yours.

Ama me fideliter,  
fidem meam noto:  
de corde totaliter  
et ex mente tota  
sum presentialiter  
absens in remota,  
quisquis amat taliter,  
volvitur in rota.

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.  
Whosoever loves this much  
turns on the wheel.

**5 Ecce gratum (Chorus) (Behold, the pleasant spring)**  
 Ecce gratum Behold, the pleasant  
 et optatum and longed-for  
 Ver reducit gaudia, spring brings back joyfulness,  
 purpuratum violet flowers  
 floret pratum, fill the meadows,  
 Sol serenat omnia. the sun brightens everything,  
 Iamiam cedant tristia! sadness is now at an end!  
 Estas redit, Summer returns,  
 nunc recedit now withdraw  
 Hyemis sevitia. the rigours of winter. Ah!

Iam liquescit Now melts  
 et decrescit and disappears  
 grando, nix et cetera; ice, snow and the rest,  
 bruma fugit, winter flees,  
 et iam sugit and now spring sucks  
 Ver Estatis ubera; at summer's breast:  
 illi mens est misera, a wretched soul is he  
 qui nec vivit, who does not live  
 nec lascivit or lust  
 sub Estatis dextera. under summer's rule. Ah!

Gloriantur They glory  
 et letantur and rejoice  
 in melle dulcedinis, in honeyed sweetness  
 qui conantur, who strive  
 ut utantur to make use of  
 premio Cupidinis: Cupid's prize;  
 simus jussu Cypridis at Venus' command  
 gloriantes let us glory  
 et letantes and rejoice  
 pares esse Paridis. in being Paris' equals. Ah!

## Uf dem anger

### 6. Tanz (Dance)

#### 7. Floret silva nobilis (The woods are burgeoning)

(Chorus)  
 Floret silva nobilis The noble woods are burgeoning  
 floribus et foliis. with flowers and leaves.

(Small Chorus)  
 Ubi est antiquus Where is the lover  
 meus amicus? I knew? Ah!  
 Hinc equitavit, He has ridden off!  
 eia, quis me amabit? Oh! Who will love me? Ah!

(Chorus)  
 Floret silva undique, The woods are burgeoning all over,  
 nah min gesellen ist mir we. I am pining for my lover.

(Small Chorus)  
 Gruonet der walt allenthalben, The woods are turning green all over,  
 wa ist min geselle also lange? why is my lover away so long? Ah!  
 Der ist geriten hinnen, He has ridden off,  
 o wi, wer sol mich minnen? Oh woe, who will love me? Ah!

#### 8. Chramer, gip die varwe mir (Shopkeeper, give me colour)

(Semi-Chorus)  
 Chramer, gip die varwe mir, Shopkeeper, give me colour  
 die min wengel roete, to make my cheeks red,  
 damit ich die jungen man so that I can make the young men  
 an ir dank der minnen liebe noete. love me, against their will.

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

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

Minnet, tugentliche man,  
minneclliche frouwen!  
minne tuot iu hoch gemout  
unde lat iuch in hohen eren  
schouwen

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

Seht mich an  
jungen man!  
lat mich iu gevallen!

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

Wol dir, werit, daz du bist  
also freudenriche!  
ich will dir sin undertan  
durch din liebe immer sicherliche.  
Seht mich an,  
jungen man!  
lat mich iu gevallen!

Hail, world,  
so rich in joys!  
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 alles megede,  
die wellent an man  
allen disen sumer gan!

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

#### 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.

Suzer rosenvarwer munt,  
chum un mache mich gesunt  
chum un mache mich gesunt,  
suzer rosenvarwer munt

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

#### Swaz hie gat umbe

Swaz hie gat umbe,  
daz sint alles megede,  
die wellent an man  
allen disen sumer gan!

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

### 10. Were diu werlt alle min (Were all the world mine)

Were diu werlt alle min  
von deme 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.

### In Taberna

#### 11. Estuans interius (Burning Inside)

Estuans interius  
ira vehementi  
in amaritudine  
loquor mee menti:  
factus de materia,  
cinis elementi  
similis sum folio,  
de quo ludunt venti.

Burning inside  
with violent anger,  
bitterly  
I speak to my heart:  
created from matter,  
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  
nunquam 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,  
quero 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;  
iocis est amabilis  
dulciorque favis;  
quicquid Venus imperat,  
labor est suavis,  
que nunquam 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 (The Roast Swan)

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

Once I lived on lakes,  
once I looked beautiful  
when I was a swan.

(Male chorus)  
Miser, miser!  
modo niger  
et ustus fortiter!

Misery me!  
Now black  
and roasting fiercely!

(Tenor)  
Girat, regirat garcifer;  
me rogus urit fortiter;  
propinat me nunc dapifer,

The servant is turning me on the spit;  
I am burning fiercely on the pyre:  
the steward now serves me up.

(Male Chorus)  
Miser, miser!  
modo niger  
et ustus fortiter!

Misery me!  
Now black  
and roasting fiercely!

(Tenor)  
Nunc in scutella iaceo,  
et volitare nequeo  
dentes frendentes video:

Now I lie on a plate,  
and cannot fly anymore,  
I see bared teeth:

(Male Chorus)  
Miser, miser!  
modo niger  
et ustus fortiter!

Misery me!  
Now black  
and roasting fiercely!

### 13. Ego sum abbas (I am the abbot)

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:	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:
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(Baritone and Male Chorus)

Wafna, wafna! quid fecisti sors turpassi Nostre vite gaudia abstulisti omnia!	Woe! Woe! what have you done, vilest Fate? the joys of my life you have taken all away!
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### 14. In taberna quando sumus (When we are in the tavern)

In taberna quando sumus non curamus quid sit humus, sed ad ludum properamus, cui semper insudamus. Quid agatur in taberna ubi nummus est pincerna, hoc est opus ut queratur, si quid loquar, audiatur.	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 host, you may well ask, and hear what I say.
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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:	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.
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Primo pro nummata vini, ex hac bibunt libertini; semel bibunt pro captivis, post hec bibunt ter pro vivis, quater pro Christianis cunctis quinquies pro fidelibus defunctis, sexies pro sororibus vanis, septies pro militibus silvanis.	First of all it is to the wine-merchant the 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,
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Octies pro fratribus perversis, nonies pro monachis dispersis, decies pro navigantibus undecies pro discordantiibus, duodecies pro penitentibus, tredecies pro iter agentibus. Tam pro papa quam pro rege bibunt omnes sine lege.	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.
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Bibit hera, bibit herus, bibit miles, bibit clerus, bibit ille, bibit illa, bibit servis cum ancilla, bibit velox, bibit piger, bibit albus, bibit niger, bibit constans, bibit vagus, bibit rudis, bibit magnus.	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,
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Bibit pauper et egrotus, bibit exul et ignotus, bibit puer, bibit canus,	The poor man drinks, the sick man drinks, the exile drinks, and the stranger, the boy drinks, the old man drinks,
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bibit presul et decanus,  
bibit soror, bibit frater,  
bibit anus, bibit mater,  
bibit ista, bibit ille,  
bibunt centum, bibunt mille.

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.

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

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.

### III. Cour d'amours

#### 15. Amor volat undique (Cupid flies everywhere)

Amor volat undique,  
captus est libidine.  
Iuvenes, iuvenecule  
coniunguntur merito.

Cupid flies everywhere  
seized by desire.  
Young men and women  
are rightly coupled.

(Soprano)  
Siqua sine socio,  
caret omni gaudio;  
tenet noctis infima  
sub intimo  
cordis in custodia:

The girl without a lover  
misses out on all pleasures,  
she keeps the dark night  
hidden  
in the depth of her heart;

(Boys)  
fit res amarissima.

it is a most bitter fate.

#### 16. Dies, nox et omnia (Day, night and everything)

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

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  
michi mesto parcite,  
grand ey dolur,  
attamen consulite  
per voster honur.

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 honour.

Tua pulchra facies  
me fay planszer milies,  
pectus habet glacies.  
A remender  
statim vivus fierem  
per un baser.

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

#### 17. Stetit puella (A girl stood)

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

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

Stetit puella  
tamquam rosula;

A girl stood  
like a little rose:

facie splenduit,  
os eius floruit.  
Eia.

her face was radiant  
and her mouth in bloom.  
Eia!

**18. Circa mea pectora (In my heart)**

(Baritone and Chorus)

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

In my heart  
there are many sighs  
for your beauty,  
which wound me sorely. Ah!

Manda liet,  
Manda liet  
min geselle  
chumet niet.

Mandaliet,  
mandaliet,  
my lover  
does not come.

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

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

Manda liet  
Manda liet,  
min geselle  
chumet niet.

Mandaliet,  
mandaliet,  
my lover  
does not come.

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

May God grant, may the gods grant  
what I have in mind:  
that I may loose  
the chains of her virginity. Ah!

Manda liet,  
Manda liet,  
min geselle  
chumet niet.

Mandaliet,  
mandaliet,  
my lover  
does not come.

**19. Si puer cum puellula (If a boy with a girl)**

Si puer cum puellula  
moraretur in cellula,  
felix coniunctio.  
Amore suscrescente  
pariter e medio  
avulso procul tedio,  
fit ludus ineffabilis  
membris, lacertis, labii

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.

**20. Veni, veni, venias (Come, come, O come)**

Veni, veni, venias,  
ne me mori facias,  
hyrcra, hycra, nazaza,  
trillirivos...

Come, come, O come,  
do not let me die,  
hycra, hycra, nazaza,  
trillirivos!

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

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

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

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

**21. In truitina (In the balance)**

In truitina mentis dubia  
fluctuant contraria

In the wavering balance of my feelings  
set against each other



lascivus amor et pudicitia. lascivious love and modesty.  
Sed eligo quod video, But I choose what I see,  
collum iugo prebeo: and submit my neck to the yoke;  
ad iugum tamen suave transeo. I yield to the sweet yoke.

**22. Tempus es iocundum (This is the joyful time)**

Tempus es iocundum, This is the joyful time,  
o virgines, O maidens,  
modo congaudete rejoice with them,  
vos iuvenes. young men!

(Baritone)

Oh, oh, oh, Oh! Oh! Oh!  
totus floreo, I am bursting out all over!  
iam amore virginali I am burning all over with first love!  
totus ardeo, New, new love is what I am dying of!  
novus, novus amor est, quo pereo.

(Women)

Mea me confortat I am heartened  
promissio, by my promise,  
mea me deportat I am downcast by my refusal

(Soprano and boys)

Oh, oh, oh, Oh! Oh! Oh!  
totus floreo I am bursting out all over!  
iam amore virginali I am burning all over with first love!  
totus ardeo, New, new love is what I am dying of!  
novus, novus amor est, quo pereo.

(Men)

Tempore brumali In the winter  
vir patiens, man is patient,  
animo vernali the breath of spring  
lasciviens. makes him lust.

(Baritone)

Oh, oh, oh, Oh! Oh! Oh!  
totus floreo, I am bursting out all over!  
iam amore virginali I am burning all over with first love!  
totus ardeo, New, new love is what I am dying of!  
novus, novus amor est, quo pereo.

(Women)

Mea mecum ludit My virginity  
virginitas, makes me frisky,  
mea me detrudit my simplicity  
simplicitas. holds me back.

(Soprano and Boys)

Oh, oh, oh, Oh! Oh! Oh!  
totus floreo, I am bursting out all over!  
iam amore virginali I am burning all over with first love!  
totus ardeo, New, new love is what I am dying of!  
novus, novus amor est, quo pereo.

(Chorus)

Veni, domicella, Come, my mistress,  
cum gaudio, with joy,  
veni, veni, pulchra, come, come, my pretty,  
iam pereo. I am dying!

(Baritone, Boys and Chorus)

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

Oh! 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!

**23. Dulcissime (Sweetest one)**

Dulcissime,  
totam tibi subdo me!

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

**Blanziflor Et Helena**

**24. Ave formosissima (Hail, most beautiful one)**

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,  
Blancheffleur and Helen,  
noble Venus!

**Fortuna Imperatrix Mundi**

**25. O Fortuna (O Fortune)**

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.

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.

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

Fate - monstrous  
and empty,  
you whirling wheel,  
you are malevolent,  
well-being is in 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.

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

Fate is against me  
in health  
and virtue,  
driven on  
and weighted down,  
always enslaved.  
So at this hour  
without delay  
pluck the vibrating strings;  
since Fate  
strikes down the strong man,  
everyone weep with me!