

CARL ORFF: CARMINA BURANA – TEXTS AND TRANSLATIONS

FORTUNA IMPERATRIX 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
michi quoque niteris;
nunc per ludum
dorsum nudum
fero tui sceleris.

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!

FORTUNE EMPRESS OF THE WORLD 1. O FORTUNE

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 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.

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

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

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

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

1. PRIMO VERE 3. VERIS LETA FACIES

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

2. I BEMOAN THE WOUNDS OF FORTUNE

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.

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.

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.

1. SPRING 3. THE MERRY FACE OF SPRING

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

Flore fusus gremio
Phoebus novo more
iam stipate flore
Zephyrus nectareo
spirans in odore;
certatim pro bravo
curramus in amore.

Cytharizat cantico
dulcis Philomena,
flore rident vario
prata iam serena,
salit cetus avium
silve per amena,
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 solemniter vere
et veris auctoritas
iubet nos gaudere;
vias prebet solitas,
et in tuo vere
fides est et probitas
tuum retinere.

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

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. Ah!

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. THE SUN WARMS EVERYTHING

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
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.

5. ECCE GRATUM

Ecce gratum
et optatum
Ver reducit gaudia,
purpuratum
flore pratum,
Sol serenat omnia,
iam iam cedant tristitia!
Estas redit,
nunc recedit
Hyemis sevitia.

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

Gloriantur
et letantur
in melle dulcedinis
qui conantur,
ut utantur
premio Cupidinis;
simus jussu Cypridis
gloriantes
et letantes
pares esse Paridis.

UF DEM ANGER 6. TANZ

7. FLORET SILVA

Floret silva nobilis
floribus et foliis.
Ubi est antiquus
meus amicus? Ah!

5. BEHOLD, THE PLEASANT SPRING

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. Ah!

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. Ah!

They glory
and rejoice
in honeyed sweetness
who strive
to make use of
Cupid's prize;
At Venus' command
let us glory
and rejoice
in being Paris' equals. Ah!

ON THE GREEN 6. DANCE

7. THE NOBLE WOODS ARE BURGEONING

The noble woods are burgeoning
with flowers and leaves,
Where is the lover
I knew? Ah!

hinc equitavit,
eia, quis me amabit?

Floret silva undique,
nah mime gesellen ist mir wé.
Gruonet der walt allenthalben,
wá ist min geselle also lange?
der ist geriten himmen,
owí, wer soll mich minnen?

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!

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

Seht mich an...

Wol dir wert, das du bist
also freudennichel
ich will dir sin undertan
durch din liebe immer sicherliche.

Seht mich an...

9. REIE

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

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

Suzer rosenvanwer munt,
chum unde mache mich gesunt.

He has ridden off!
Oh! Who will love me? Ah!

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? Ah!
He has ridden off.
Oh woe, who will love me? Ah!

8. SHOPKEEPER, GIVE ME COLOR

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!

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

Look at me, etc.

Hail, world,
so rich in joys!
I will be obedient to you
because of the pleasures you afford.

Look at me, etc.

9. ROUND DANCE

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

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

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

Swaz hie gat umbe,

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 chünegin von Engellant
lege an minen armen. Heil!

II. IN TABERNA

11. ESTUANS INTERIUS

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

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

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

Mihi cordis gravitas
res videtur gravis;
iocus est amabilis
dulcorque favis;
quicquid Venus imperat,
labor est suavis,

Those who go round, etc.

10. IF ALL THE WORLD WERE MINE

If all the world were mine
from the sea to the Rhine,
I would do without it
if the Queen of England
would lie in my arms. Heil!

II. IN THE TAVERN

11. BURNING INSIDE

Burning inside
with violent anger,
bitterly
I speak my heart:
Created from matter,
of the ashes of the elements,
I am like a leaf
played with by the winds.

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

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.

The heaviness of my heart
seems a burden to me;
it is pleasant to joke
and sweeter than honeycomb;
whatever Venus commands
is a sweet duty,

que nunquam in cordibus
habitat ignavis.

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

12. OLIM LACUS COLUERAM

Cignus ustus cantat:

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

Miser, miser!
modo niger
et ustus fortiter!

Girat, regirat garcifer;
me rogus urit fortiter:
propinat me nunc dapifer,

Miser, miser! etc.

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

Miser, miser! etc.

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 quesierit in taberna,

she never dwells
in a lazy heart.

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. ONCE I LIVED ON LAKES

The roasted swan sings:

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

Misery me!
Now black
and roasting fiercely!

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

Misery me! etc.

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

Misery me! etc.

13. I AM THE ABBOT

I am the abbot of Cockaigne
and my assembly is one of drinkers,
and I wish to be in the order of Decius,¹

and whoever searches me out at the
tavern in the morning,

post vesperam nudus egredietur,
et sic denuodatus veste clamabit:

Wafna, wafna!
Nostre fecisti sors turpissima?
Nostre vite gaudia
abstulisti omnia!
Haha!

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,
hoc est opus ut queratur,
sic 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 hec bibunt ter pro vivis,
quater pro Christianis cunctis,
quinquies 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 penitentibus,
tredecies pro iter angentibus.
Tam pro papa quam pro rege

after Vespers he will leave naked,
and thus stripped of his clothes he will call
out:

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

14. WHEN WE ARE IN THE TAVERN

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 hoist,
you may well ask,
and hear 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
that 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

¹ Decius: the invented Saint of dice-throwers

bibunt omnes sine lege.

Bibit hera, bibit herus,
bibit miles, bibit clericus,
bibit ille, bibit illa,
bibit servus cum ancilla,
bibit velox, bibit piger,
bibit albus, bibit niger,

bibit constans, bibit vagus,
bibit rudis, bibit magus.

Bibit pauper et egrotus,
bibit exul et ignotus,
bibit puer, bibit canus,
bibit presul et decanus,
bibit soror, bibit frater,
bibit anus, bibit mater,
bibit iste, bibit ille,
bibunt centum, bibunt mille.

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

Io, io, io! ...

III. COUR D'AMOURS 15. AMOR VOLAT UNDIQUE

Amor volat undique,
captus est libidine.
Iuvenes, iuvenecule
coniunguntur merito.
Siqua sine socio,
caret omni gaudio,
tenet noctis infima
sub intimo
cordis in custodia:

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,

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 the 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.

Io, io, io!

III. THE COURT OF LOVE 15. CUPID FLIES EVERYWHERE

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;

fit res amarissima.

16. DIES, NOX ET OMNIA

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

O sodales, ludite,
vos qui scitis dicite,
michi mesto parcite,
grand ey dolor,
attamen consulte
per voster honur.

Tua pulchra facies,
me fay planszer milies,
pectus habens glacies,
a remender
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,
que me ledunt misere. Ah!

it is a most bitter fate.

16. DAY, NIGHT, AND EVERYTHING

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

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.

17. A GIRL STOOD

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

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

18. IN MY HEART

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

Manda liet,
manda liet,
min geselle
chumet niet.

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

Mandaliet, etc.

Vellent deus, vellent dii,
quod mente proposui:
ut eius virginea
reserasset vincula. Ah!

Mandaliet, etc.

19. SIE PUER CUM PUELLULA

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

20. VENI, VENI, VENIAS

Veni, veni, venias,
ne me mori facias,
hyrca, hyrca, nazaza,
trillirivos!

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

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

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. Ah!

Mandaliet, etc.

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

Mandaliet, etc.

19. IF A BOY WITH A GIRL

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. COME, COME, O COME

Come, come, O come,
do not let me die,
hyrca, hyrca, nazaza,
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!

21. IN TRUTINA

In trutina mentis dubia
fluctuant contraria
lascivus amor et pudicitia.
Sed eligo quod video,
collum iugo prebeo;
ad iugum tamen suave transeo.

22. TEMPUS EST IOCUNDUM

Tempus est iocundum,
o virgines,
modo congaudete
vos iuvenes.
Oh, oh, oh!
totus floreo,
iam amore virginali totus ardeo!
novus, novus amor est, quo pereo!

Mea me confortat
promissio,
mea me deportant
negatio.
Oh, oh, oh! etc.

Tempore brumali
vir patiens,
animo vernali
lasciviens.
Oh, oh, oh! etc.

Mea mecum ludit
virginitas,
mea me detrudit
simplicitas.
Oh, oh, oh! etc.

Veni domicella,
cum gaudio,
veni, veni, pulchra,
iam pereo.
Oh, oh, oh! etc.

21. IN THE BALANCE

In the wavering balance of my feelings
set against each other
lascivious love and modesty.
But I choose what I see,
and submit my neck to the yoke;
I yield to the sweet yoke.

22. THIS IS THE JOYFUL TIME

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

I am heartened
by my promise,
I am downcast
by my refusal.
Oh! oh! oh! etc.

In the winter
man is patient,
the breath of spring
makes him lust.
Oh! oh! oh! etc.

My virginity
makes me frisky,
my simplicity
holds me back.
Oh! oh! oh! etc.

Come, my mistress,
with joy,
come, come, my pretty,
I am dying!
Oh! oh! oh! etc.

23. DULCISSIME

Dulcissime, Ah!
totam tibi subdo mei

23. SWEETEST ONE

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

**BLANZFLORE ET HELENA
24. AVE FORMOSISSIMA**

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

**BLANCHEFLEUR² AND HELEL
24. HAIL, MOST BEAUTIFUL ONE**

Hail, most beautiful one,
precious jewel,
Hail, Pride among virgins,
glorious virgin,
Hail, light of the world,
Hail, rose of the world,
Blanche fleur and Helen,
noble Venus!

**FORTUNA IMPERATRIX MUNDI
25. O FORTUNA**

No. 1 repeated

**FORTUNE, EMPRESS OF THE WORLD
25. O FORTUNE**

No. 1 repeated

² Heroine of a popular medieval saga