

Appendix 5. Texts of Monteverdi’s *sacri concentus*

Nigra sum (Song of Solomon, I:4, I:3, II:11–12)

Nigra sum, sed formosa, filia Jerusalem. Ideo, dilexit me rex et introduxit in cubiculum suum, et dixit mihi: surge, amica mea, et veni. Jam hiems transiit, imber abiit et recessit, flores apparuerunt in terra nostra, tempus putationis advenit.

I am the dark, but lovely, daughter of Jerusalem. Therefore, the king loved me and brought me into his chamber and said to me: “Arise, my love, and come. Already the winter has passed, the rains are over and gone, flowers have appeared in our land, the time of pruning has come.”

Pulchra es (Song of Solomon, VI:3–4)

Pulchra es, amica mea, suavis, et decora filia Jerusalem; pulchra es, amica mea suavis, et decora sicut Jerusalem; terribilis ut castrorum acies ordinata. Averte oculos tuos à me, quia ipsi me avolare fecerunt.

You are beautiful, my dearest, lovely and graceful daughter of Jerusalem; you are beautiful, my dearest, lovely and graceful as Jerusalem; frightful as an army arrayed for battle. Turn your eyes away from me; for they have made me flee.

Duo Seraphim (Isaiah, VI:3, First Epistle of John, V:7)

Duo Seraphim clamabant alter ad alterum: Sanctus, sanctus, sanctus Dominus Deus sabaoth. Plena est omnis terra gloria eius. Tres sunt qui testimonium dant in coelo: Pater, Verbum, et Spiritus sanctus. Et hi tres unum sunt. Sanctus, sanctus, sanctus Dominus Deus sabaoth. Plena est omnis terra gloria eius.

Two Seraphim called one to the other: Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of Hosts: the whole earth is full of his glory. There are three who bear witness in heaven: the Father, the Word, and the Holy Spirit; and these three are one. Holy, holy, holy, etc.

Audi coelum

Audi coelum verba mea plena desiderio, et perfusa gaudio. (Echo: Audio.) Dic quaeso mihi quae est ista quae consurgens ut aurora rutilat ut benedicam. (Echo: Dicam.) Dic, nam ista pulchra ut luna electa ut sol replet laetitia terras, coelos, maria. (Echo: Maria.) Maria, virgo, illa dulcis praedicata à prophetis Ezechiel porta Orientalis. (Echo: Talis.) Illa sacra, et foelix porta per quam mors fuit expulsa introducta autem vita. (Echo: Ita.) Quae semper tutum est medium inter hominem et Deum pro culpulis remedium. (Echo: Medium.) Omnes hanc ergo sequamur qua cum gratia mereamur vitam aeternam consequamur; (Echo: Sequamur;) praestet nobis Deus Pater hoc et Filius et mater cuius nomen invocamus dulce miseris solamen; (Echo: Amen;) benedicta es virgo Maria in seculorum secula.

Hear, O heaven, my words, full of longing, and steeped in joy. (Echo: I hear.) Tell me, I entreat: who is she who, rising, shines like the dawn, that I may bless her? (Echo: I shall tell.) Tell me, for she, lovely as the moon, chosen as the sun, fills with joy the earth, heavens and the seas. (Echo: Mary.) Mary, that sweet virgin foretold by the prophet Ezechiel, the portal of the rising sun? (Echo: That very one.) That holy and happy portal through which death was expelled and eternal life brought in? (Echo: Just so.) She who is always the secure mediator between man and God, the remedy of sins? (Echo: The mediator.) Let us all, therefore, follow her through whose grace we shall merit eternal life. Let us follow. (Echo: We shall follow.) Grant us this, God, the Father, and the Son and the Mother, whose name we invoke, sweet comfort to the distressed. (Echo: So be it.) Blessed are you, Virgin Mary in all ages.

Sonata sopra Sancta Maria

Sancta Maria, ora pro nobis.

Holy Mary, pray for us.