

# CARMINA BURANA

## TEXT AND TRANSLATION

### FORTUNA IMPERATRIX MUNDI

### FORTUNE EMPRESS OF THE WORLD

#### 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!

#### 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 corruui  
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. O FORTUNE

O Fortune,  
variable  
as the moon,  
always dost thou  
wax and wane.  
Detestable life,  
first dost thou mistreat us,  
and then, whimsically,  
thou heedest our desires.  
As the sun melts the ice,  
so dost thou dissolve  
both poverty and power.

Monstrous  
and empty fate,  
thou, turning wheel,  
art mean,  
voiding  
good health at thy will.  
Veiled  
in obscurity,  
thou dost attack  
me also.  
To thy cruel pleasure  
I bare my back.

Thou dost withdraw  
my health and virtue;  
thou dost threaten  
my emotion  
and weakness  
with torture.  
At this hour,  
therefore, let us  
pluck the strings without  
delay.  
Let us mourn together,  
for fate crushes the brave.

#### 2. THE WOUNDS THAT FORTUNE BLOWS

I lament the wounds that  
Fortune blows  
with weeping eyes,  
for she extorts from me  
her gifts,  
now pregnant  
and prodigal,  
now lean and sear.

Once was I seated  
on Fortune's throne,  
crowned with a garland  
of prosperity.  
In the bloom  
of my felicity  
I was struck down  
and robbed of all my glory.

At the turn on Fortune's  
wheel,  
one is deposed,  
another is lifted on high  
to enjoy a brief felicity.  
Uneasy sits the king –  
let him beware his ruin,  
for beneath the axle of the  
wheel we read:  
Queen of Hecuba.

#### 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.

Flore fusus gremio  
Phoebus novo more  
risum dat, hoc vario  
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 solemnibus 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.

#### 5. ECCE GRATUM

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

#### 1. IN SPRINGTIME

#### 3. THE BRIGHT FACE OF SPRING

The bright face of Spring  
shows itself to the world,  
driving away  
the cold of Winter.  
Flora reigns  
in her colorful robes,  
praised in the canticle  
of sweet-sounding woods.

Phoebus laughs  
in Flora's lap again.  
Surrounded by flowers,  
Zephyrus breathes  
the fragrance  
of their nectar.  
Let us compete  
for the prize of love.

The sweet nightingale  
begins her song;  
the bright meadows  
laugh with flowers;  
Birds flit about  
the pleasant woods;  
the maidens' chorus  
brings a thousand joys.

#### 4. EVERYTHING IS TEMPERED BY THE SUN

The sun, pure and fine,  
tempers all;  
a new world is opened  
by the face of April.  
The heart of man  
rushes to love;  
and over all  
the boyish god rules.

The power of Nature's  
renovation  
in the glorious Spring  
commands us to be joyful.  
Spring evokes  
the wonted ways  
of love.  
Hold fast thy lover!

Love me faithfully,  
feel the constant adoration  
of my heart  
and mind.  
I am with you  
even when apart.  
Whosoever shares my  
feelings  
knows the torture of love.

#### 5. BEHOLD THE SPRING

Behold the Spring,  
welcome and long awaited,  
which brings back  
the pleasures of life.  
The meadow  
with purple flowers is a-  
bloom,  
the sun brightens all things.  
Now put all sadness aside,  
for Summer returns,  
and Winter's cold withdraws.

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

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

Ice  
and snow  
melt away;  
the frost flees,  
and Spring  
sucks the breast of Summer.  
Miserable is he  
who neither loves  
nor frolics  
under Summer's spell.

Those  
who vie  
for Cupid's prize  
taste the sweetness  
of honey.  
Let us,  
proud and joyful,  
be ruled  
by Venus.  
Let us emulate Paris.

#### UF DEM ANGER

#### ON THE LAWN

##### 6. TANZ

##### 6. DANCE

##### 7. FLORET SILVA

##### 7. THE NOBLE FOREST BLOOMS AGAIN

Floret silva nobilis  
floribus et foliis.  
Ubi est antiquus  
meus amicus?  
hinc equitavit,  
eia, quis me amabit?

The noble forest  
is filled  
with buds and leaves.  
Where is my lover?  
He rode away on horseback.  
Alas, who will love me now?

Floret silva undique,  
nah mime gesellen ist  
mir wê.  
Gruonet der walt  
allenthalben,  
wâ ist min geselle also  
lange?  
der ist geriten hinnen,  
owî, wer soll mich  
minnen?

Everywhere the forest is in  
bloom;  
I am longing for my lover.  
If the wood is green all  
over,  
why does my lover not  
return?  
He has ridden away.  
Alas, who will love me?

##### 8. CHRAMER, GIP DIE VARWE MIR

##### 8. SALESMAN, GIVE ME COLOR

Chramer, gip die varwe  
mir,  
die min wengel roete,  
damit ich die jungen man  
an ir dank der  
minnenliebe noete.

Salesman,  
give me color  
to paint my cheeks,  
that young men  
may not resist my graces.

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

Young men,  
look here,  
and let me charm you!

Minnet, tugentliche man,  
minnecliche frouwen!  
minne tuot iu hoch  
gemuot  
unde lat iuch in hohen  
eren schouwen.

Make love, good men  
and gracious women.  
Love will ennoble you,  
and take you to high  
honours.

Wol dir werlt, das du bist  
also freudenriche!  
ich will dir sin undertan  
durch din liebe immer  
sicherliche.

Hail, o world  
so rich in joys.  
I will obey you always,  
and accept your bountiful  
gifts.

#### 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 rosenvarwer munt,  
chum unde mache mich  
gesunt.

#### 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.

#### 9. ROUND

Here are maidens  
in a circle,  
they'd like to be with a lover  
all the Summer through.

Come, come, dear heart  
of mine,  
I wait for thee,

Sweet rosy mouth,  
come and heal my  
longing.

#### 10. WERE THE WORLD ALL MINE

Were the world all mine,  
from the sea to  
the Rhine,  
I should gladly forsake it  
for the Queen of  
England  
in my arms.

#### II. IN TABERNA

#### II. IN THE TAVERN

##### 11. ESTUANS INTERIUS

##### 11. IN RAGE AND BITTERNESS

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

In rage  
and bitterness  
I talk  
to myself,  
made of matter,  
ash of the elements,  
I am like a leaf  
which the wind plays with.

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

If a wise man  
builds  
his house  
upon a rock,  
I, fool,  
am like a gliding river  
which follows no straight  
path.

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 swept away  
like a pilotless ship,  
like a bird floating aimlessly  
through the air.  
No fetters, no locks  
hold me;  
I am looking for my like,  
and I join the deprived.

Mihi cordis gravitas  
res videtur gravis;  
iocus est amabilis  
dulciorque favis;  
quicquid Venus imperat,  
labor est suavis,  
que nunquam in  
cordibus  
habitat ignavis.

The burdens of the heart  
weigh too heavily on me.  
Jesting is lovely  
and sweeter than the  
honeycomb.  
What Venus commands  
is suave labor;  
love never dwells  
in cowardly hearts.

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

On the broad road I move  
along  
as youth is wont to do.  
I am entangled in vice,  
and unmindful of virtue.  
Greedy more for lust than  
for welfare; dead in soul,  
I care only for my body.

**12. OLIM LACUS COLUERAM**

Olim lacus colueram,  
olim pulcher extiteram,  
dum cignus ego fueram.  
Miser, miser!  
modo niger  
et ustus fortiter!

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

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

**12. ONCE I DWELT IN THE LAKES**

Once I dwelt in the lakes;  
once I was  
a beautiful swan.  
O miserable me!  
Now I am black  
And roasted to a turn!

The cook turns me on the  
spit,  
the fire roasts me through,  
and I am prepared for the  
feast.

Now in a serving dish I lie  
And can no longer fly  
Gnashing teeth confront  
me.

**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,  
post vesperam nudus  
egredietur,  
et sic denudatus veste  
clamabit:  
Wafna, wafna!  
quid fecisti sors  
turpissima?  
Nostre vite gaudia  
abstulisti omnia!

**13. I AM THE ABBOT**

I am the Abbot  
of Cucany,  
and I meet with my fellow-  
drinkers  
and I belong to the sect of  
Decius.  
Whosoever meets me in  
the tavern over dice  
loses his garments by the  
end of the day,  
and, thus denuded, he  
cries:  
Wafna, wafna!  
What hast thou done, O  
infamous fate?  
Thou hast taken away all  
the pleasures of this life.

**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.

**14. WHEN WE ARE IN THE TAVERN**

When we are in the tavern,  
unmindful of the grave,  
we rush to the gaming  
tables  
over which we sweat.  
If you want to know  
what happens in the tavern  
where money gets you wine,  
then listen to my tale.

Some men gamble, others  
drink,  
others shamelessly indulge  
themselves;  
and of those who stay to  
gamble,  
some lose their garments,  
and others are in sackcloth.  
There no one is in fear of  
death,  
throwing dice for Bacchus:

First, the dice are thrown  
for wine,  
which the libertines drink.  
Then they toast the  
prisoners twice,  
then they toast the living  
thrice.  
Four times wine is drunk for  
Christians,  
five times for the faithful  
departed,  
six times for the boastful  
sisters,  
seven times for the forest  
soldiers.

Octies pro fratribus  
perversis,  
nonies pro monachis  
dispersis,  
decies pro navigantibus,  
undecies pro  
discordantibus,  
duodecies pro  
penitentibus,  
tredecies pro iter  
argentibus.  
Tam pro papa quam pro  
rege  
bibunt omnes sine lege.

Bibit hera,  
bibit herus,  
bibit miles,  
bibit clerus,  
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,  
iuencule  
coniunguntur merito.

Siqua sine socio,  
caret omni gaudio,  
tenet noctis infima  
sub intimo cordis in  
custodia:  
fit res amarissima.

Eight times for the sinful  
brethren,  
nine times for the  
dispersed monks,  
ten times for the  
navigators,  
eleven times for men at  
odds,  
twelve times for the  
penitent,  
thirteen for the travelers.  
We drink for Pope and  
King alike,  
and then we drink, we drink.

The mistress drinks,  
the master drinks,  
the soldier and  
the clergyman.  
This man drinks,  
that woman drinks,  
the servant and the maid.  
The quick man drinks,  
the lazy drinks,  
the white man and  
the black.  
The sedentary drinks,  
the wanderer drinks,  
the ignorant  
and the learned.

The poor man drinks,  
the sick man drinks,  
the exiled and  
the unknown.  
The youngster drinks,  
the oldster drinks,  
the Bishop and  
the Deacon.  
The sister drinks,  
the brother drinks,  
the old woman and  
the mother.  
Women drink and  
men drink  
by the hundreds and the  
thousands.

Six hundred coins are not  
enough  
for this aimless and  
intemperate drinking.  
Though our drink is  
always gay,  
there are ever those who  
nag,  
and we shall be indigent.  
May they who nag us be  
confounded,  
and never be inscribed  
among the just.  
Io, io, io! ...

**III. THE COURT OF LOVE****15. LOVE FLIES EVERYWHERE**

Love flies everywhere  
and is seized by desire.  
Young men and young  
women  
are rightly joined together.

If a girl lacks a man  
she misses all delight;  
darkest night  
is at the bottom of her  
heart:  
This is bitterest fate.

**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 dolur,  
attamen consulite  
per voster honor.  
Tua pulchra facies,  
me fey 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.

Manda liet,  
manda liet,  
min geselle  
chumet niet.

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

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

**19. SIE PUER CUM PUELLULA**

Sie puer cum puellula  
moraretur in cellula,  
felix coniunctio.  
Amore sucrescente,  
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 ...

**16. DAY, NIGHT AND ALL**

Day, night and all the world  
are opposed to me,  
and the sound of  
maidens' voices  
makes me weep.  
Alas, I am filled with  
sighing and fear.

O friends, amuse  
yourselves  
and speak as you please.  
Spare me, a sad man,  
for great is my grief.  
Counsel me,  
by your honour.  
Thy lovely face  
makes me weep a  
thousand tears  
because thy heart is  
made of ice.  
Thy single kiss  
would bring me  
back to life.

**17. THERE STOOD A MAID**

There stood a maid  
in a red tunic;  
when it was touched  
the tunic rustled.  
Eia.

There stood a girl,  
like a rose;  
her face was radiant;  
her mouth bloomed.  
Eia.

**18. IN MY HEART**

My heart is filled  
with sighing.  
I am longing for thy beauty.  
My misery is great.

Manda liet,  
manda liet,  
my sweetheart  
doest not come.

Thine eyes shine  
like the sun's rays,  
like lightning flashes  
in the night.

May God, may the gods  
look with favor  
on my desire  
to undo the bonds  
of her virginity.

**19. WHEN A BOY AND A MAIDEN**

When a boy and a maiden  
are alone together,  
happy is their union.  
Their passions mount,  
and modesty disappears.  
An ineffable pleasure  
pours through  
their limbs, their arms,  
their lips.

**20. COME, COME, COME**

Come, come, come,  
do not let me die.  
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!

**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 novus amor  
est, quo pereo.

Mea me confortat  
promissio,  
mea me deportant  
negatio.

Tempore brumali  
vir patiens,  
animo vernali  
lasciviens.

Mea mecum ludit  
virginitas,  
mea me detrudit  
simplicitas.

Veni domicella,  
cum gaudio,  
veni, veni, pulchra,  
iam pereo.

**23. DULCISSIME**

Dulcissime,  
totam tibi subdo me!

**BLANZIFLOR ET HELENA****24. AVE FORMOSISSIMA**

Ave formosis  
sima,  
gemma pretiosa,  
ave decus virginum,  
virgo gloriosa,  
ave mundi luminar  
ave mundi rosa,  
Blanziflor et Helena,  
Venus generosa!

**FORTUNA  
IMPERATRIX MUNDI****25. O FORTUNA**

Pretty is thy face,  
the look of thine eyes,  
the braids of thy hair,  
O how beautiful thou art!

Redder than the rose,  
whiter than the lily,  
more beautiful than all  
the rest,  
always I shall glory in  
thee.

**21. BETWEEN LOVE AND CHASTITY**

I am suspended  
between love  
and chastity,  
but I choose  
what is before me  
and take upon myself  
the sweet yoke.

**22. PLEASANT IS THE SEASON**

Pleasant is the season,  
O maidens;  
now rejoice,  
ye lads.

Oh, oh, oh,  
with love  
I bloom  
for a maiden,  
my new, new, new love,  
of which I perish.

Yielding gratifies me;  
refusing  
makes me grieve.

In winter  
man's desires are  
passive;  
the breath of spring  
makes him lascivious.

My maidenhood  
excites me,  
but my innocence  
keeps me apart.

Come, my mistress,  
come with joy;  
come, my beauty,  
for I die.

**23. SWEETEST BOY**

Sweetest boy,  
I give my all to you!

**BLANZIFLOR ET HELENA****24. HAIL TO THEE, MOST  
BEAUTIFUL**

Hail to thee, most  
beautiful,  
most precious gem;  
hail, pride of virgins,  
most glorious virgin.  
Hail, light of the world,  
hail, rose of the world.  
Blanziflor and Helena,  
Venus generosa!

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