

# NOTES

**The following transcription is intended only for performing purpose and doesn't seek any critical goal.**

The keys, notes' values, accidentals and colourings are as in the original manuscript apart from:

- the perfect breves and an imperfect longa are dotted
- ties are used for notes' values that cannot be exactly represented

The C clefs are transposed to the G clef and the modern Tenor clef.

The Time signature is missing in all the voices. From the context I assumed that it would be the "Tempus perfectum, Prolatio minor"

Instead of marking the "ligaturæ" with the usual square brackets, I tried to keep their original shape, as far as possible in the score alignment, to make them more visible. To represent the notes' values I used the following rules (simplifying the old ones):

- the left upstemmed notes are semibreves
- the notes without stem are breves
- the downstemmed notes are longæ

I decided to keep the original manuscript's text placement, positioned above the staves, to leave the performers the freedom to make the effective text placement at their own judgement.

In the music before the baroque, the Time Signatures are intended just only as "time" prescription, i.e. which note value as to be counted (mensura) and how the different note values are to be divided (perfection and imperfection). This music is above all a vocal music and its rhythm (the accents) is based upon the text rhythm (the text accents) either following or contrasting it. The text rhythm being not modular by definition, forcing a bar division, i.e. a modular rhythm, upon this music is a theoretical error involving practical ones: to put the accents in the wrong places and to prevent a correct understanding of the melodic flowing.

The single parts are put together in score for a better overall sight of the harmonic, melodic and rhythmic structure of the composition.

If you have any doubt you can download the fac simile of the manuscript from the following address:

[http://www.trentinocultura.net/catalogo/manoscrittimusicali/portal/server.pt?open=514&objID=19772&parentname=CommunityPage&parentid=1&mode=2&in\\_hi\\_userid=19324&cached=true](http://www.trentinocultura.net/catalogo/manoscrittimusicali/portal/server.pt?open=514&objID=19772&parentname=CommunityPage&parentid=1&mode=2&in_hi_userid=19324&cached=true)

Those peoples interested in the mensural notation can find useful to visit the following website (only Italian, sorry):

<http://www.musica-antica.info/paleografia/>

# Se mesdisans

Se mesdisans devoyent crever desire

The image displays a musical score for the piece 'Se mesdisans'. It consists of four systems of three staves each. The top staff of each system contains a vocal line with lyrics. The second and third staves of each system contain lute tablature, represented by numbers 0-6 on a six-line staff. The first system includes a circled '0' in the second staff. The notation is in a historical style, likely from a lute book. The piece concludes with a double bar line at the end of the fourth system.