

## Senex puerum portabat

William Byrd (c.1540-1623)

Superius [Soprano]      C

Medius [Alto]            C

Tenor [Tenor]            C

Bassus [Bass]            C

A musical score for four voices (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) and basso continuo. The music is in common time, with a key signature of one flat. The vocal parts sing in homophony, while the basso continuo part provides harmonic support at the bottom. The lyrics are in Latin, with some words like 'bat' and 'er' repeated. The vocal parts are written in soprano, alto, tenor, and bass staves. The basso continuo part is written in a single staff with a bass clef and includes a bassoon part.

10

au - tem se - nem re - ge - - - bat, quem  
pu - er au - tem se - nem re - ge - - - bat, quem  
au - tem, pu - er au - tem se - nem re - ge - - bat,  
pu - er au - tem se - nem re - ge - - bat,

Vir - go pe - pe - rit, et post par - tum Vir - go per - man -

Vir - go pe - pe - rit, et post par - tum Vir - go per - man - sit:

8 quem Vir - go pe - pe - rit, et post par -

quem Vir - go pe - pe - rit, et

20

- sit:  
et post par - tum Vir - go per - man - sit:  
- tum Vir - go per - man - sit, per - man - sit:  
post par - tum Vir - go per - man - sit:

- psum, i - psum, quem ge - nu -  
- psum, i - psum, quem ge -  
i - psum, quem ge - nu - it, quem  
i - psum, quem ge - nu - it,

30

- it, quem ge - nu - it, a - do -  
nu - it, quem ge - nu - it, a - do - ra - vit,  
ge - nu - it, quem ge - nu - it, a - do -  
quem ge - nu - it, a - do - ra -

- ra - - - - vit, a - do - ra -  
a - do - ra - - - - vit, a - do - ra -  
- ra - - - - vit, a - do - ra - - - - vit, a - do -  
- vit, a - do - ra - - - - vit, a - do - ra - - -

A musical score for four voices (SATB) in G minor, 4/4 time. The vocal parts are arranged in four staves: Soprano (top), Alto, Tenor, and Bass (bottom). The music consists of a single melodic line with various note heads and stems. The lyrics are written below each staff, corresponding to the notes. The lyrics are: '-vit, a - do-ra - - - - vit.', '-vit, a - do - ra - - - - vit.', '-ra - - - - vit, a - do - ra - - - - vit.', and '-vit, a - do-ra - - - - vit.' The score concludes with a final cadence.

The old man carried the child, but the child ruled the old man. Him that a Virgin bore, remaining evermore a virgin, she adored.

Source: William Byrd: *Gradualia, ac cantiones sacræ... Liber primus* (2nd edition, 1610), vol.2 no.18.

Liturgical function: Magnificat antiphon, First Vespers, the Purification of the Blessed Virgin Mary

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