

Qui consolabatur me – Jacobus Clemens non Papa



This motet, along with (among others) “Fremuit spiritu Jesus” by the same composer inspired musicologist Edward Lowinsky to theorize about a “secret chromatic art in the Netherlands motet”. The theory was severely criticised by many of his colleagues, and has been, if not disproved, at least shelved for lack of supporting evidence, as Richard Taruskin put it in his “History of western music”.

In this edition I first present the ‘au naturel’ version, with limited editorial accidentals. Most of it is the same as in Bernet Kempers CMM-edition. Mark the difference in key signature between the tenor parts and the other parts: the tenor parts (tenor and quinta pars) have three flats, the others two. The a-flat is required in the beginning of the motet, after that it has to be cancelled many times.

After that I present the Lowinsky version. The chromatic intervention starts at “Fundent oculi mei”, with a D-flat chord, which works very well, I must say. In order to avoid very many flats above the notes, I inserted a key signature of five flats there, only requiring occasional a’s as leading notes. From bar 80 C-flats are required to keep the harmony in control, ending the piece in G-flat.

The only available recording of the work I know of is by the Huelgas Ensemble. Apparently Paul van Nevel liked the waywardness of Lowinsky’s theory (and the sounding result), so he used his version, but with alterations. Most importantly, apparently he didn’t want to end in G-flat, so in bar 74 he seized the opportunity to have the superius and 5a pars sing D-naturals, thus returning to the initial mode(s). Before that however, still in five flats territory, from bar 50 he darkens the mood further by introducing C-flats in bass and tenor, and then a startling F-flat chord in bar 57. Very adventurous.

We don’t know what the text is about; Taruskin calls it “a Biblical cento, a patchwork of Bible quotations put together for votive, possibly even nonliturgical, expressive purposes.”

Text and translation:

Qui consolabatur me recessit a me

quaero quod volui et non invenio

fundent oculi mei lacrimas

quia repletus sum amaritudine.

He that was comforting me departed from me

I am looking for what I wanted and I do not find it

my eyes splash tears

because I am filled with bitterness.

Bert Schreuder

Qui consolabatur me

Original clefs: C1, C3, C4, C4, F4.

Jacobus Clemens non Papa

Mez

A

T1

T2

B

Qui con -

Qui con - so - la - ba -

Qui

Qui con - so - la - ba - tur me, qui

Qui con - so - la - ba - tur me, qui con - so - la -

Mez

A

T1

T2

B

so - la - ba - tur me,

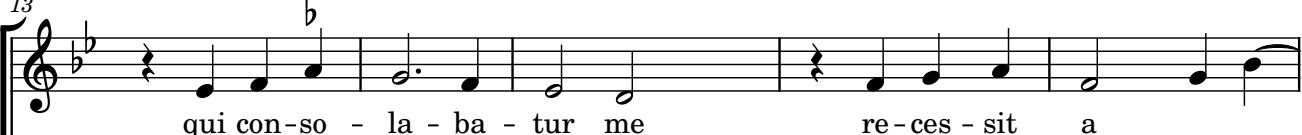
- tur me, qui con - so -

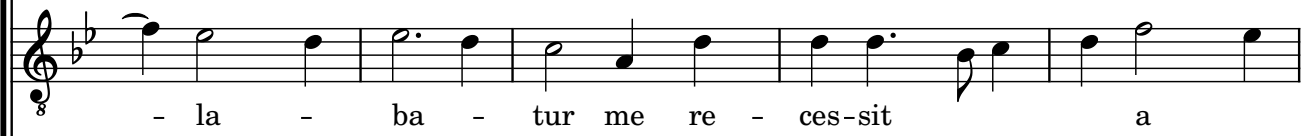
con - so - la - ba - tur me, qui con - so - la - ba -

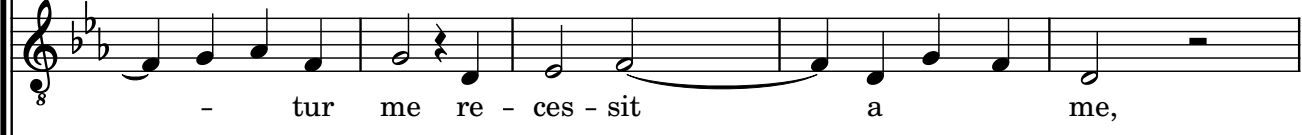
con - so - la - ba - tur me, qui con - so -

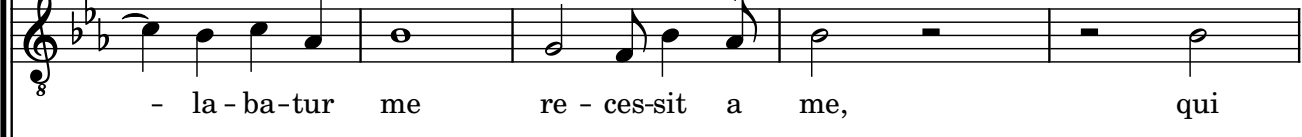
ba - tur me, qui con - so -

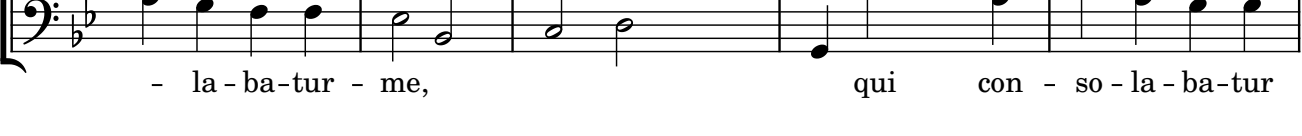
13

Mez  qui con-so - la - ba - tur me re - ces - sit a

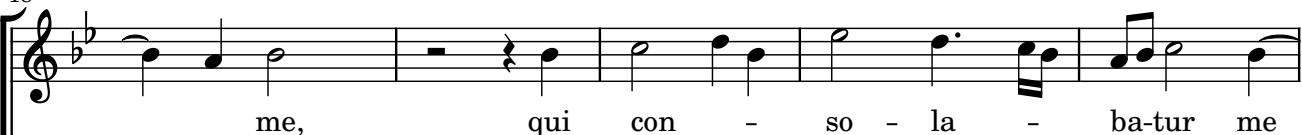
A  - la - ba - tur me re - ces-sit a

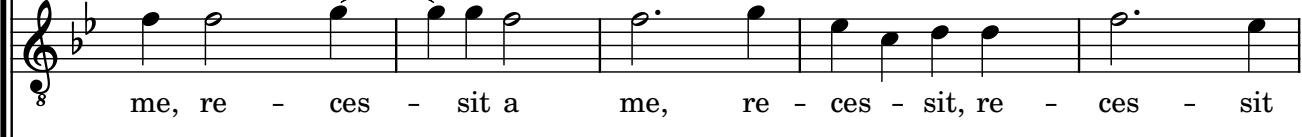
T1  - tur me re - ces - sit a me,

T2  - la - ba-tur me re - ces-sit a me, qui

B  - la - ba-tur - me, qui con - so - la - ba-tur

18

Mez  me, qui con - so - la - ba-tur me

A  me, re - ces - sit a me, re - ces - sit, re - ces - sit

T1  qui con-so - la - tur me re - ces - sit a

T2  con - so - la-ba - tur me re - ces -

B  me re - ces - sit a me.

23

Mez

re - ces - sit a me. Quae - ro quod

A

a me. Quae - ro quod vo -

T1

me. Quae - ro, quae -

T2

- sit a me. Quae - ro quod vo - lu -

B

Quae - ro quod vo - lu - i,

27

Mez

vo - lu - i, quod vo - lu - i, quae - ro quod

A

- lu - i, quae - ro quod vo - lu -

T1

ro quod vo - lu - i, quae - ro quod vo - lu -

T2

i, quae - ro, quae -

B

quae - ro quod vo - lu - i,

31

Mez
vo-lu-i, quod vo-lu-i et non

A
i, quae - ro quod vo-lu-i et non in-ve-ni-o, et

T1
i, quod vo-lu-i et non in-ve-ni-

T2
ro, quae - ro quod vo-lu-i et non in-ve-ni-

B
quae - ro quod vo-lu-i

36

Mez
in-ve-ni-o, et non in-ve-ni-o, et

A
non in-ve-ni-o, et non in-ve-ni-o,

T1
o, in-ve-ni-o, et non in-ve-ni-o,

T2
o, et non in-ve-ni-o, et non in-ve-ni-o, et non

B
et non in-ve-ni-o, et non

41

Mez non in - ve - ni - o.

A et non in - ve - ni - o. Fun -

T1 et non in - ve - ni - o, et non in - ve -

T2 in - ve - ni - o. Fun - dent o - cu - li me - i,

B in - ve - ni - o.

45

Mez Fun - dent o - cu - li me - i la - cri - mas,

A - dent o - cu - li me - i la - cri - mas, fun - dent

T1 - ni - o. Fun - dent o - cu - li me - i la -

T2 fun - dent o - cu - li me - i la - cri - mas, fun - dent o - cu - li me -

B Fun - dent o - cu - li me - i la - cri -

50

Mez

fun - dent o - cu - li me - i la - cri - mas,

A

8 o - cu - li me - i, fun - dent o - cu - li me - i la -

T1

8 - cri - mas, fun - dent o - cu - li me - i la -

T2

8 i la - cri - mas, fun - dent o - cu - li me - i, fun -

B

mas, la - - - cri - mas, fun - dent

55

Mez

fun - dent o - cu - li me - i la - cri - mas, la -

A

8 - cri - mas, fun - dent o - cu - li me -

T1

8 - - - - cri - mas

T2

8 - dent o - cu - li me - i la - - cri - mas

B

o - cu - li mei la - cri - mas

60

Mez

cri - mas qui -

A

i la-cri - mas qui - a - re -

T1

qui - a re - ple-tus sum a - ma - ri - tu - di-ne,

T2

qui - a re - ple-tus sum a - ma - ri - tu - di-ne, a -

B

qui - a re - ple-tus sum a - ma - ri - tu-di-ne,

65

Mez

- a re - ple-tus sum a - ma - ri - tu-di-ne,

A

ple-tus sum a - ma - ri - tu - di ne,

T1

qui - a re - ple - tus sum, qui-a

T2

ma - ri - tu-di-ne, qui - a re -

B

qui - a

70

Mez

qui -

A

qui - a re - ple - tus

T1

re - ple - tus sum a - ma - ri - tu -

T2

ple - tus sum a - ma - ri - tu - di - ne,

B

re - ple - tus sum a - ma - ri - tu - di - ne, a - ma - ri -

74

Mez

a re - ple - tus sum a - ma - ri - tu -

A

sum a - ma - ri - tu - di - ne, a - ma -

T1

- di - ne, qui - a re - ple - tus sum a - ma - ri -

T2

a - ma - ri - tu - di - ne, a - ma - ri -

B

tu - di - ne, qui - a re - ple - tus sum a - ma - ri - tu - di -

78

Mez

- di-ne, a - ma - ri - tu - di - ne.

A

8

ri - tu - di - ne, a - ma - ri - tu-di-ne, a - ma - ri -

T1

8

tu-di-ne, a - ma - ri - tu - di - ne.

T2

8

tu-di-ne, a - ma-ri-tu-di - ne, a - ma-ri-tu-di -

B

ne, qui - a re-ple - tus sum a-ma - ri - tu - di -

83

Mez

A

8

- tu-di-ne.

T1

8

T2

8

ne.

B

ne.

Mez

Qui con -

A

Qui con - so - la - ba -

T1

Qui

T2

Qui con - so - la - ba - tur me, qui

B

Qui con - so - la - ba - tur me, qui con - so - la -

Mez

so - la - ba - tur me,

A

- tur me, qui con - so -

T1

con - so - la - ba - tur me, qui con - so - la - ba -

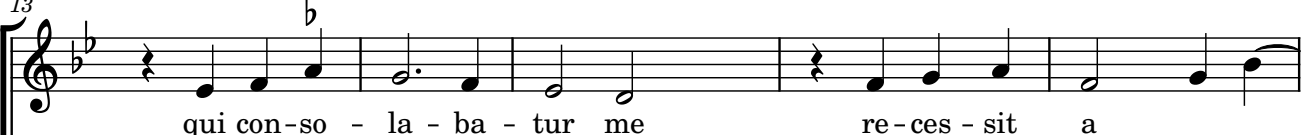
T2

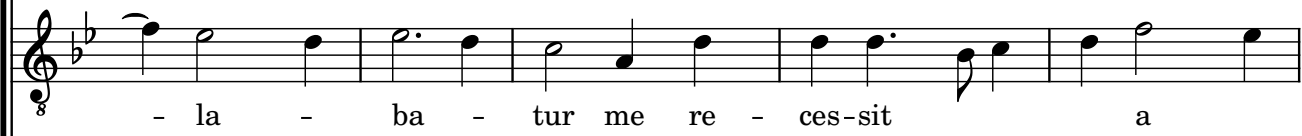
con - so - la - ba - tur me, qui con - so -

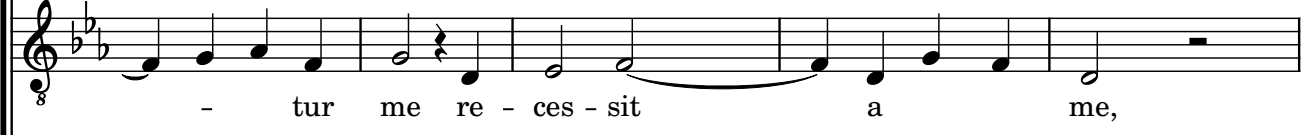
B

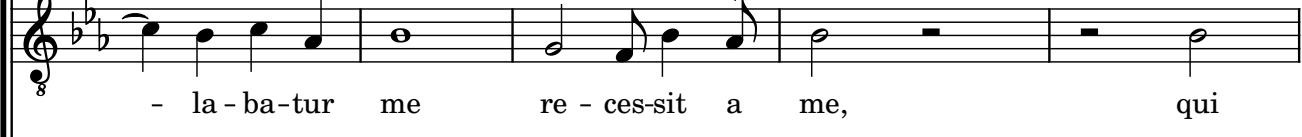
ba - tur me, qui con - so -

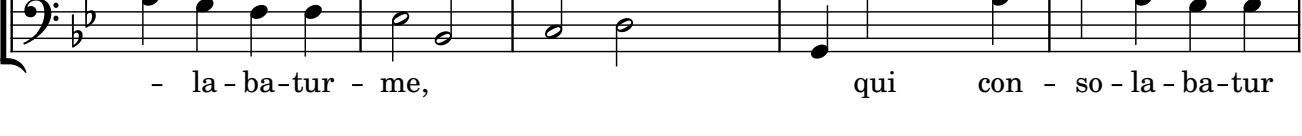
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Mez  qui con-so - la - ba - tur me re - ces - sit a

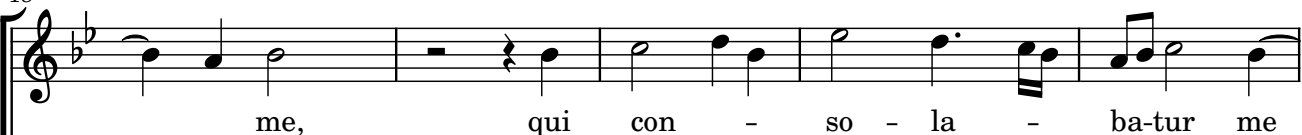
A  - la - ba - tur me re - ces-sit a

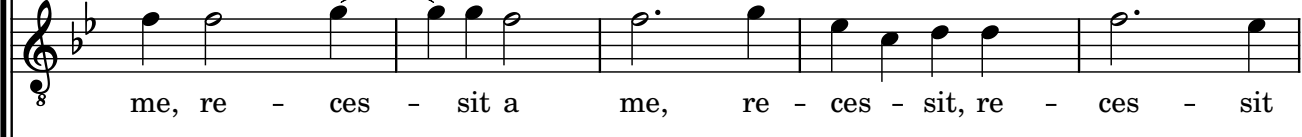
T1  - tur me re - ces - sit a me,

T2  - la - ba-tur me re - ces-sit a me, qui

B  - la - ba-tur - me, qui con - so - la - ba-tur

18

Mez  me, qui con - so - la - ba-tur me

A  me, re - ces - sit a me, re - ces - sit, re - ces - sit

T1  qui con - so - la - tur me re - ces - sit a

T2  con - so - la-ba - tur me re - ces -

B  me re - ces - sit a me.

23

Mez

re - ces - sit a me. Quae - ro quod

A

a me. Quae - ro quod vo -

T1

me. Quae - ro, quae -

T2

- sit a me. Quae - ro quod vo - lu -

B

Quae - ro quod vo - lu - i,

27

Mez

vo - lu - i, quod vo - lu - i, quae - ro quod

A

- lu - i, quae - ro quod vo - lu -

T1

ro quod vo - lu - i, quae - ro quod vo - lu -

T2

i, quae - ro, quae -

B

quae - ro quod vo - lu - i,

31

Mez

vo-lu-i, quod vo-lu-i et non

A

i, quae - ro quod vo-lu-i et non in-ve-ni-o, et

T1

i, quod vo-lu-i et non in-ve-ni-

T2

ro, quae - ro quod vo-lu-i et non in-ve-ni-

B

quae - ro quod vo-lu-i

36

Mez

in-ve-ni-o, et non in-ve-ni-o, et

A

non in-ve-ni-o, et non in-ve-ni-o,

T1

o, in-ve-ni-o, et non in-ve-ni-o,

T2

o, et non in-ve-ni-o, et non in-ve-ni-o, et non

B

et non in-ve-ni-o, et non

41

Mez
non in - ve - ni - o.

A
8 et non in - ve - ni - o. Fun -

T1
8 et non in - ve - ni - o, et non in - ve -

T2
8 in - ve - ni - o. Fun - dent o - cu - li me - i,

B
in - ve - ni - o.

45

Mez
Fun - dent o - cu - li me - i la - cri - mas,

A
8 - dent o - cu - li me - i la - cri - mas,

T1
8 - ni - o. Fun - dent o - cu -

T2
8 fun - dent o - cu - li me - i la - cri - mas, fun - dent

B
Fun - dent o - cu - li me -

49

Mez

fun - dent o - cu - li me - i la - cri -

A

8 fun - dent o - cu - li me - i, fun - dent o - cu -

T1

8 li me - i la - - cri-mas, fun -

T2

8 o - cu - li me - i la - - cri-mas, fun - dent

B

i la - cri - mas, la - - - cri-mas,

53

Mez

mas, fun - dent o - cu - li me - i la -

A

8 li me - i la - cri-mas, fun-dent -

T1

8 dent o - cu - li me - i la - - -

T2

8 o - cu - li me - i, fun - dent o - cu - li me - i la -

B

fun - dent o - cu - li mei la - cri - mas

58

Mez

- cri-mas, la - - cri - mas

A

8 o - cu - li me - i la-cri - mas

T1

8 - cri - mas qui - a re - ple-tus sum a - ma -

T2

8 - cri-mas qui - a re - ple - tus sum a -

B

qui - a re - ple - tus sum a -

63

Mez

qui - - a re - ple-tus sum

A

8 qui - a - re - ple-tus sum a - ma - ri - tu -

T1

8 - ri - tu - di-ne, qui - a re - ple -

T2

8 ma - ri - tu - di-ne, a - ma - ri - tu-di-ne,

B

ma - ri - tu-di-ne,

68

Mez
a - ma - ri - tu-di-ne,

A
8 - di ne, qui - a

T1
8 tus sum, qui-a re - ple - tus sum a - ma - ri -

T2
8 qui - a re - ple - tus sum a - ma - ri - tu - di -

B
qui - a re - ple - tus sum a - ma - ri - tu - di -

73

Mez
qui - a re - ple - tus sum a - ma - ri -

A
8 re - ple - tus sum a - ma - ri - tu - di - ne,

T1
8 tu - di - ne, qui - a re - ple - tus

T2
8 ne, a - ma - ri - tu - di - ne,

B
ne, a - ma - ri - tu - di - ne, qui - a re - ple - tus sum a -

77

Mez

tu - di - ne, a - ma - ri - tu - di -

A

a - ma - ri - tu - di - ne, a - ma - ri -

T1

sum a - ma - ri - tu - di - ne, a - ma - ri - tu - di -

T2

a - ma - ri - tu - di - ne, a - ma - ri - tu - di -

B

ma - ri - tu - di - ne, qui - a re-ple - tus

81

Mez

ne.

A

tu - di - ne, a - ma - ri - tu - di - ne.

T1

ne.

T2

ne, a - ma - ri - tu - di - ne.

B

sum a - ma - ri - tu - di - ne.