Versa est in luctum

Derrick Gerarde (fl. 1540-1580)

Derrick Gerarde was a Flemish composer resident in England. He was associated with Henry Fitzalan, 12th Earl of Arundel (d 1580), and Arundel's son-in-law and heir John, Lord Lumley (d 1609), but it is not known whether he was employed by either as a musician. His music comes to us in 6 sets of partbooks owned by them, with only two other pieces found in other sources. He was apparently unknown in his own time. He remains unknown, because his music has nothing to do stylistically with English music and resembles more closely contemporary Flemish music, which is also unexplored. His work has been the subject of two dissertations: D. Epps: The Life and Work of Deryck Gerarde (Edinburgh U., 1964), and C.W. Warren: The Music of Derick Gerarde (Ohio State U., 1966)

The critical matter:

There's only one source for this: British Library, Royal Appendix 17-22. I have found no obvious errors to fix. The manuscript contains a large number of cadential sharps, and some cautionary B#s (i.e., B natural). Ficta are marked above the note, explicit accidentals before the note. Note values have been reduced by half. Text underlay is largely editorial; text repetition not present in the manuscript is given in italics. Original performing forces were probably mostly or exclusively male. To perform this with a modern mixed choir, I recommend singing a major second or minor third higher with SAATTB scoring. The pitch rise will keep basses and altos out of the basement while not providing undue stress to the sopranos and tenors.

Text:

Versa est in luctum cithara mea, et organum meum in vocem flentium. Parce mihi Domine, nihil enim sunt dies mei. Cutis mea denigrata est super me et ossa mea aruerunt

My harp is tuned for lamentation, and my flute to the voice of those who weep. Spare me, O Lord, for my days are as nothing. My skin is become black upon me, and my bones are dried up.

--Jeffrey Quick 2/25/2012
Versa est in luctum

Job 30:31,30

British Library, Royal Appendix 17-22, f. 13B-14b

Derrick Gerarde (fl. 1540-1580)
ed. Jeffrey Quick

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Versa est in luctum
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S
- cem flen - ti-um, Par - ce mi - hi Do-mi - ne, Par - ce mi - hi Do - mi - ne,

A1
- cem flen - ti-um, flen - ti-um. Par - ce mi - hi Do - mi - ne, Par - ce mi - hi Do - mi - ne,

A2

Par - ce mi - hi Do - mi - ne, Par - ce mi - hi Do - mi - ne, ni - hil e -

T1
Par - ce mi - hi Do - mi - ne, Par - ce mi - hi Do - mi - ne, ni - hil e -

T2
vo-cem flen - ti-um, in vo-cem flen-ti-um. Par - ce mi - hi Do - mi - ne, Par - ce mi - hi

B
Par - ce mi - hi Do - mi - ne,
Versa est in luctum

Secunda pars

Cu-tis me-a de-nil-gra-ta est su-per me-

Cu-tis me-a de-nil-gra-ta est su-per me-

Cu-tis me-a de-nil-gra-ta est su-per me-

Cu-tis me-a de-nil-gra-ta est su-per me-
Versa est in luctum

Curtis mea de nigrata est super me et ossa mea de nigrata est super me

et ossa mea a ruere

et ossa mea a ruere runt et ossa mea a ruere runt et ossa mea a ruere runt,

a ruere runt, a ruere runt, a ruere runt, et

et ossa mea a ruere runt, a ruere runt, et

et ossa mea a ruere runt et ossa mea a ruere runt, a ruere runt, a ruere runt, a ruere runt

et ossa mea a ruere runt, a ruere runt

et ossa mea a ruere runt
Versa est in luctum
Versa est in luctum

ca. 4:30