

Nicolas Gombert

Lugebat David Absalon

Motet in Two Parts for Eight Voices (ATBarB & ATBarB)

Edited by Charles H. Giffen

Prima pars

*Lugebat David Absalon, pius pater filium,
tristis senex puerum:
Heu me, fili mi Absalon, quis mihi det ut moriar,
ut ego pro te moriar, O fili mi Absalon!
Rex autem David filium, cooperto flebat capite:
Quis mihi det ut moriar, O fili mi, O fili mi!*

Secunda Pars

*Porro rex operuit caput suum,
et clamabat voce magna:
Fili mi Absalon, O fili mi.*

Prima Pars

David mourned for Absalom, a pius father for his son,
a grieving old man for his boy:
Ah me! my son Absalom, would God I had died for you,
O my son Absalom!
Kind David wept for his son with covered head:
Would God I had died for you, O my son!

Secunda Pars

Then the King covered his head
and cried with a great voice:
O my son Absalom, O my son!

Prima Pars, pp. 1-13, 109 measures.

Secunda Pars, pp. 14-24, 77 measures.

We have been generally conservative with inserting *musica ficta*, in an effort to preserve what seems to be the unique character of the music as reflected in the tragic text. This is in contrast to our edition of the composer's *Je prens congie* whose music is nearly identical to the Prima Pars of the present motet and for which *musica ficta* were more liberally applied (albeit with some reservations about the modality of added E-flats near the end).

Also, we have laid out the work in two choirs: Choir I comprising the Cantus I, Quintus, Tenor, Bassus II parts; and Choir II comprising the Cantus II, Altus, Sextus, Bassus I parts. This has been done as an aid to performance and score reading. Whether one would wish to separate the two choirs for performance is doubtful, although it might improve clarity if, in performance, the two choirs were arrayed side-by-side with the highest voices in the middle and the lowest voices at the ends.

Source: Nürnberg, 1564

Lugebat David Absalon

Nicolas Gombert (c. 1495-1556)

Edited by Charles H. Giffen

Prima Pars

The musical score consists of eight staves, each representing a different voice part. The voices are: Cantus I (Alto 1), Quintus (Tenor 1), Tenor (Baritone 1), Bassus II (Bass 1), Cantus II (Alto 2), Altus (Tenor 2), Sextus (Baritone 2), and Bassus I (Bass 2). The music is in common time, with a key signature of one sharp. The lyrics are written below the notes, corresponding to the vocal parts. The score is divided into two parts, 'Prima Pars' and 'Secunda Pars'.

Cantus I [Alto 1]

Quintus [Tenor 1]

Tenor [Baritone 1]

Bassus II [Bass 1]

Cantus II [Alto 2]

Altus [Tenor 2]

Sextus [Baritone 2]

Bassus I [Bass 2]

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A 1

T 1

Bar 1

B 1

A 2

T 2

Bar 2

B 2

The musical score consists of eight staves of music for two choirs, A and B. The music is in common time. The key signature is one flat. The vocal parts are: Alto 1 (A 1), Tenor 1 (T 1), Bass 1 (B 1), Alto 2 (A 2), Tenor 2 (T 2), Bass 2 (B 2). The lyrics are: "pi - - - us pa - - - sa - - lon, pi - - - us pa - - ter fi - - - li - Ab - sa - - lon, Pi - - - us pa - ge - bat Da - - vid Ab - sa - lon, Ab - - - - - sa - lon, Lu - - - ge - bat Da - - vid Ab-sa-lon, pi - - - - us pa - - ter fi - - li - um, pi - Lu - - - - ge - bat Da - - vid Ab - sa - lon,"

19

A 1

ter fi - li - um, tris - tis se - - - nex pu - e - rum: heu

T 1

li - um, pi - us pa - ter, tris - tis se - - - nex pu - e -

Bar 1

um, tris - tis se-nex pu - e - rum, tris - tis se-nex pu - e -

B 1

ter, pa-ter fi - - - li - um, tris - tis se-nex pu - e - rum:

A 2

pi - - - us pa - ter fi - li - - - um, tris - tis se - - - nex pu - e -

T 2

us pa - - ter fi - li - um, tris - tis se - - - nex pu - e - rum:

Bar 2

pi - - - us pa - ter fi - - - li - um, tris - tis se-nex pu - e -

B 2

pi - - - us pa - ter, pa-ter fi - - - li - um, tris - tis se-nex pu - e -

27

A 1

me, heu me heu me fi - li mi Ab-sa - lon, heu me, heu me fi - li

T 1

rum: heu me, heu me, heu me fi - li mi Ab-sa - lon, heu

Bar 1

rum: heu me fi - li mi Ab-sa - lon, heu me, heu me fi - li mi Ab-sa - lon, heu

B 1

heu me, heu me, heu me fi - li mi Ab-sa - lon, heu me, heu

A 2

rum: heu me, heu me, heu me, heu me,

T 2

heu me, heu me, heu me, heu

Bar 2

rum: heu me, heu me fi - li mi Ab-sa - lon, heu me, heu me fi - li mi Ab-sa - lon,

B 2

rum: heu me, heu me, heu me, heu me, heu me fi - li mi Ab-sa - lon,

36

A 1

mi,
heu me fi - li mi Ab-sa - lon,
quis mi - hi

T 1

me fi - li mi Ab - sa - lon, Ab - - - - - sa - lon,
quis mi - hi

Bar 1

me fi - li, heu me fi - li mi Ab-sa - lon,
quis mi - hi

B 1

me fi - li,
quis mi - hi det, quis mi - hi

A 2

heu me fi - li mi, heu me fi - li mi Ab-sa - lon,
quis mi - hi

T 2

me fi - li mi Ab - sa - lon,
quis mi - hi det

Bar 2

heu me fi - li,
quis mi - hi det

B 2

heu me fi - li,
quis mi - hi det

lon, Ab - - - - - sa

45

A 1

T 1

Bar 1

B 1

A 2

T 2

Bar 2

B 2

det ut mo - ri - ar, ut mo - - - - ri - ar, ut mo - - - - ri - ar,
det ut mo - ri - ar, ut mo - ri - ar, ut e - go pro - te -
det ut mo - ri - ar, ut mo - ri - ar, ut e - go pro - te -
det ut mo - ri - ar, ut mo - ri - ar, ut mo - ri - ar,
det ut mo - - - - ri - ar, ut mo - - - - ri - ar, ut e - go pro - te -
ut mo - ri - ar, ut mo - ri - ar, ut mo - ri - ar,
ut mo - ri - ar, ut mo - ri - ar, ut e - go mo - ri - ar,
ut mo - ri - ar, ut mo - ri - ar, ut mo - ri - ar,

53

A 1

T 1

Bar 1

B 1

A 2

T 2

Bar 2

B 2

ut e - go pro — te mo - ri - ar,
— mo - ri - ar, ut e - go pro te mo - ri - ar,
mo - ri - ar, ut e - go pro te mo - ri - ar,
ut e - go pro — te mo - ri - ar,
mo - ri - ar, ut e - go pro te mo - ri - ar, O
ut e - go pro — te mo - ri - ar, O
ut e - go pro — te mo - ri - ar, O
ut e - go pro — te mo - ri - ar, O

61

A 1

T 1

Bar 1

B 1

A 2

T 2

Bar 2

B 2

70

A 1

O fi - li mi, fi - li mi Ab-sa - lon, fi - li mi Ab-sa - lon? Rex

T 1

mi, fi - li mi Ab-sa - lon, fi - li mi Ab-sa - lon, fi - li mi Ab -

Bar 1

O fi - li mi, fi - li mi Ab-sa - lon, fi - li mi Ab-sa - lon?

B 1

O fi - li mi, fi - li mi Ab-sa - lon, Ab -

A 2

mi, fi - li mi Ab-sa - lon, fi - li mi Ab-sa - lon, fi - li mi Ab-sa - lon, fi - li mi Ab-sa - lon? —

T 2

8 O fi - li mi, fi - li mi Ab-sa - lon, fi - li mi Ab-sa - lon, Ab - sa - lon?

Bar 2

mi, fi - li mi Ab-sa - lon, fi - li mi Ab-sa - lon?

B 2

mi, fi - li mi Ab-sa - lon, Ab -

78

A 1 au - tem Da - vid fi - li - um, fi - li - um

T 1 sa - lon? Rex au - tem Da - vid fi - li - um, fi -

Bar 1 Rex au - tem Da - vid fi - li - um rex au - tem Da - vid fi - li - um

B 1 sa - lon? Rex au - tem Da - vid

A 2 Rex

T 2

Bar 2 Rex au - tem Da - vid fi - li - um, rex au - tem Da - vid fi - li - um rex au - tem

B 2 sa - lon?

86

A 1

T 1

Bar 1

B 1

A 2

T 2

Bar 2

B 2

li - um

co - - - o - per

co - - - o - per - to fle - bat

fi - li - um

co - - -

au - tem Da - vid fi - li - um, fi - - - li - um

Rex au - tem Da - vid fi - li - um, rex au - tem Da - vid

Da - vid, rex au - tem Da-vid fi - li - um,

Rex au - tem Da - vid fi - li - um

94

A 1 o - per - to fle-bat ca - pi-te: quis mi-hi det _____ ut mo - ri - ar,

T 1 8 to fle-bat ca - pi - te: quis mi - hi det, quis mi - hi det _____

Bar 1 — ca - pi - te: quis mi - hi det ut e - go mo - ri - ar pro

B 1 o - per - to fle-bat ca - pi - te: quis mi - hi det ut mo - ri - ar,

A 2 co - - - o - per - to fle-bat ca - pi - te: ut mo - - -

T 2 8 fi - li-um co - o - per - to fle-bat ca - pi - te: quis mi - hi det ut mo - ri - ar,

Bar 2 co - - - o - per - to _____ fle-bat ca - pi - te: quis mi - hi

B 2 co - - - o - per - to fle-bat ca - - - pi - te: quis mi - hi

102

A 1

O fili mi, O fili mi, O fili mi, O fili mi?

T 1

— ut e - go mo - ri - ar pro te, O fili mi, O fili mi, O fili mi, O fili mi?

Bar 1

te, O fili mi, O fili mi, O fili mi, mi?

B 1

O fili mi, O fili mi, O fili mi, mi?

A 2

- - - ri - ar, O fili mi, O fili mi, O fili mi?

T 2

O fili mi, O fili mi, O fili mi, O fili mi?

Bar 2

det ut e - go mo - ri - ar pro te O fili mi, O fili mi?

B 2

det ut e - go mo - ri - ar pro te, O fili mi, O fili mi?

Secunda Pars

110

A 1

T 1

Bar 1

B 1

A 2

T 2

Bar 2

B 2

Por - ro — rex _____ o - pe - ru - it ca - put su -
Por - ro — rex o - pe - ru - it, o - pe - ru - it ca - put su -
por - ro — rex _____ o - pe - ru - it
Por - - - ro — rex _____ o - per - - - ru - it ca - put su - um,
Por - ro — rex o - pe - ru - it _____ ca - put su - - - um, ca - put su -
Por - - - - ro —
Por - ro — rex

117

A 1 um, ca - put su - um _____ et cla - ma - - - - -

T 1 um, ca - -put su - - - um, et cla - - - ma - bat _____

Bar 1 ca - -put su - um, ca - put su - - - um, et cla-ma-bat, et cla-ma -

B 1 it ca - put su - um, et cla-ma - bat

A 2 et cla - ma - - - - bat, cla - ma - - - bat

T 2 um, et cla - ma - bat, cla - ma - - - bat, et cla - ma - - - - -

Bar 2 rex o - pe - ru - it ca - put su - um, _____

B 2 o - -pe - ru - it ca - put su - um, _____

124

A 1

T 1

Bar 1

B 1

A 2

T 2

Bar 2

B 2

130

The musical score consists of six staves of music for two choirs, A and B. The music is in common time, with a key signature of one flat. The tempo is marked as 130.

- Staff A:** Contains two parts: A1 (treble clef) and A2 (treble clef). Both parts sing the same melody.
- Staff B:** Contains two parts: B1 (bass clef) and B2 (bass clef). Both parts sing the same melody.
- Staff T:** Contains two parts: T1 (treble clef) and T2 (treble clef). Both parts sing the same melody.

The lyrics are as follows:

A1: fi - li mi Ab - sa - lon, fi - li mi Ab - sa - lon, et

T1: gna: fi - li mi Ab - sa - lon, fi - li mi Ab - sa - lon, fi - li mi Ab -

Bar 1: ma - - - - gna: fi - li mi Ab - sa - lon, fi - li mi Ab - sa - lon;

B1: Ab - sa - lon, fi - li mi Ab - sa - lon, fi - li mi Ab - sa - lon; et cla-ma -

A2: gna, vo - ce ma - - - gna: fi - li mi Ab - sa - lon, fi - li mi Ab - sa -

T2: - - - - gna: fi - li mi Ab - sa - lon; et

Bar 2: ce, vo - ce ma - gna: O fi - li mi Ab - sa - lon;

B2: gna: fi - li mi Ab - sa - lon, fi - li mi Ab - sa - lon; et cla-ma -

144

A 1

T 1

Bar 1

B 1

A 2

T 2

Bar 2

B 2

lon, fi - li mi Ab - sa - lon, O

lon, fi - li mi Ab - sa - lon, O

lon, fi - li mi Ab - sa - lon, O

fi - - - li mi Ab - sa - lon, O

li mi Ab - sa - lon, O fi - li mi,

fi - li mi Ab - sa - lon, O fi - li me,

li mi Ab - sa - lon, O fi - li mi,

lon, fi - - - li mi Ab - sa - lon, O fi - li mi,

151

A 1 fi - li mi; et cla - ma - - - - bat: _____

T 1 fi - li mi; et cla-ma - bat _____ vo - -ce ma - gna:

Bar 1 fi - li mi; et ____ cla - - - - ma - -bat: _____

B 1 fi - li mi; et cla - - - ma - bat vo - ce ma - gna: fi - li mi

A 2 fi - li mi Ab - - - sa - lon; _____ et cla-ma - - - -

T 2 fi - li mi Ab - - sa - lon, _____ fi - li mi

Bar 2 O fi - li mi; et cla - - - ma - - - - bat: _____

B 2 fi - li mi Ab - - - - - sa - lon; _____ vo - ce, vo - ce ma -

159

A 1

O fi - li mi, fi - li mi Ab - sa -

T 1

8 fi - li mi Ab - sa - lon, fi - li mi Ab - sa - lon, O fi - li mi,

Bar 1

fi - li mi Ab - sa - lon, fi - li mi Ab - sa - lon, O fi - li mi,

B 1

Ab - sa - lon, fi - li mi Ab - sa - lon, O fi - li mi, fi - li mi Ab - sa -

A 2

- - bat: fi - li mi Ab - sa - lon, O fi - li mi,

T 2

8 Ab - sa - lon, fi - li mi Ab - sa - lon, O fi - li mi, fi - li mi Ab - sa -

Bar 2

O fil - li mi, fi - li mi Ab - sa -

B 2

gna: fi - li mi Ab - sa - lon, fi - li mi Ab - sa - lon, O fi - li mi,

A 1

-lon,
O fi - li mi; _____ et cla - ma - bat

T 1

fi - li mi Ab-sa - lon; _____ et cla - ma - bat: _____ O fi - li mi,

Bar 1

fi - li mi Ab-sa-lon; et cla - ma - bat vo - - - ce ma - - - gna, vo -

B 1

-lon; et cla - ma - bat vo - ce ma - - - gna, vo -

A 2

fi - li mi Ab-sa-lon, O fi - li mi, O fi - li mi,

T 2

lon, O fi - - - li mi,

Bar 2

lon, O _____ fi - - - li mi,

B 2

fi - li mi Ab-sa - lon; _____ et cla - - - ma - bat,

173

A 1

T 1

Bar 1

B 1

A 2

T 2

Bar 2

B 2

et cla - ma - bat vo - ce ma - gna:

