Nymphes des bois

(La déploration de Jehan Ockeghem)

Text: Jean Molinet

Josquin Des Prez


Sources:
1. Bibliothèque nationale de France ms Fr 24315 (c.1497; Molinet's poem only);
2. Motetti a Cinque (Ottaviano Petrucci, 1508; music largely untexted: only includes Latin sections of text).
3. Medici Codex (1518; music with Molinet's text; adds the line "doct, élégant et non point trappe", which may be Josquin's addition);
4. Le septiesme livre de chansons (Tielman Susato, 1545; with an amended text).

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* Molinet’s text in italics; text as published by Susato in roman type.
Translation: Wood nymphs, fountain goddesses, expert singers of all nations, change your strong, lofty voices into trenchant cries and lamentations.
For Atropos, very terrible satrap, has caught your Ockeghem in her trap, True treasurer of music and master, learned, handsome and by no means forgotten. Great shame it is that earth covers him. Clothe yourselves in mourning, Josquin, Brumel, Pirchon [Pièrre de la Rue], Compère, and cry great tears from your eyes. You have lost your good father.