

Rose Canon, 4-in-2 Salve radix

ANONYMOUS (possibly Sampson)

This is the opening piece of music in a choirbook compiled for Henry VIII and Katherine of Aragon in 1516, where it is presented with the music of the *Bassus* and *Contratenor* parts each encircling a rose; both are marked *Canon. Fuga in diatesseron*, indicating that the other two parts may be derived as canons at the 4th. No accidentals are marked in either voice, but there is an implicit flattening through the piece, with repeated modulations creating a "pitch spiral" such that by the end, we are a tone below the notated pitch. Alternatively, a non-modulating reading is possible. The book does not mention the composer; three of the other pieces in the book are by a "Sampson" and this may also be his work.



Source: British Library: Royal MS E.xi

Transposed up a 4th. Note values halved.

Translation: Hail root, producing diverse branches from the shoot, among which one branch rises above, and from whose top the purple rose gleams, by which peace and justice stand united and enclosed, and the dissonant hearts of the aged are shut outside.







