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Introduction

This is a collection of medieval tunes from 12th -14th Centuries. It is a very small selection from the thousands of tunes written down in this period. It has been compiled mainly as a source of instrumental pieces, though singers may also find it useful. We have tried to select some of the more 'catchy' melodies, to emphasise that music of this period is not necessarily difficult to perform or to enjoy, and that there's a lot more to it than 'chant'. We have also tried to list as many sources as possible for finding further music.

Almost all of the pieces are originally songs (as very little instrumental music was ever written down) but we have found that most of this selection can work well on instruments alone. Playing a tune on whatever instruments were available is the most likely period practice - pieces were not 'scored' for particular instruments till the renaissance. Most of these tunes work well with a simple accompaniment (drones, parallel octaves, fourths or fifths, 'shadowing', simple counter melodies, percussion, etc - but avoid modern guitar-type 1-3-5 chords!). The tune could be played by a single self-accompanying instrument (fiddle or other strings, harp, bagpipe, etc.) or two or three contrasting instruments (e.g. plucked + bowed + wind). Or, of course, they can be sung, with or without accompaniment. Our experience is that they are not good pieces for large ensembles or recorder consorts - as is the case for almost all medieval music.

Relative Pitches

There was no notion of fixed pitch in the medieval period. A melody may have been notated as starting on D but this was an indication of the mode (the disposition of whole and half tones in a scale) and not a specific note as played on a piano. The melody would be sung at whatever pitch was convenient. The songs included here have been notated in a pitch suitable for the instruments on which we play them. They can be transposed to any pitch that is comfortable for your voice or that lies well on your instruments. Few of the melodies have a range of more than a ninth.

Tempo

None of the melodies in the manuscripts have any indication of tempo. The limitations of a singer are probably the best guide to tempo. They obviously would not have been sung faster than is possible to sing - though you cannot rule out an instrumentalist getting carried away - but a tune also can get too slow. A useful rule-of-thumb is that a line of text should be sung in one breath. If you cannot sing the line without taking a breath it is probably too slow.

Lyrics

In most cases we have included only the first stanza of the songs. This is to save space and avoid upsetting anyone over copyrights. The bibliography has references that should help you find the rest of the words. Complete versions (sometimes with translations) can often be found on the internet usually by searching on the first few words of the song; you may find more accurate transcriptions than we were capable of doing. It is also worth noting that it was a period practice to invent new words to fit an old tune, so feel free to supply your own.

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Troubadour and Trouvère

These tunes come from the 12th and 13th centuries, from what is now France. The Troubadours were from the south (but also from parts of NW Italy and Catalonia) and wrote songs in Old Occitan. About 3000 songs, but only 300 with music, have been recorded in manuscripts. The Trouvères were from the northern areas and wrote in Old French. They flourished slightly later than the Troubadours, but used the same forms and similar style. There are thousands of Trouvère songs recorded in manuscripts.

Nearly all the troubadour (and many of the trouvère) songs were notated without any rhythm. It is likely that most of them would have been performed freely (though this is hotly debated) and possibly unaccompanied (even more hotly debated) but some are of a more popular style which can imply rhythm and use of instruments. It is known that instrumentalists made arrangements of popular songs, so it seems reasonable to play this music. One way to transform a troubadour or trouvère tune to an instrumental is to arrange it in the estampie form (see below). We have included a late troubadour tune 'Pus astres' and our own estampie arrangement of it as an example.

Generally, the structure of most troubadour and trouvère songs is strophic, that is, a series of strophes sung to the same music. As stated earlier we have only included the first strophe.

Kalenda Maya

One of the better-known troubadour tunes. It was composed by Raimbaut de Vacqueiras and is said to have used the melody from an 'estampida' played by two northern French fiddlers at the court of the Count of Montferrat. It tells that none of the joys of May can please the singer until he has a message of love from his Dona (the Lady - the object of his love).

Ka - len-da ma - ya, ne fuelh de fa-ya ni chan d'au - zel ni flor de gla - ya,
Non trueb que.m pla-ya pros do-na ga-ya tro c'un ir - nel mes - sa-tje n'a - ya,
Del vos-tre bel, cors que.m re - tra - ya, Pla - zer no - vel c'a - mors m'a - tra - ya,
Qu'ieu a - ya, e.m tra-ya vas vos, do - na ve - ra-ya,
E cha-ya de pla-ya ge - los ans que.m n'es - tra - ya.

Be m'an perdut

This is a song by the most famous of the troubadours - Bernart de Ventadorn. Strictly speaking, this is a Canso - the highest form of the troubadour songs. Many people believe they should be sung a-rhythmically and unaccompanied. The melodic structure (AAB) is a common one in this repertory, though here the first part of the melody is repeated with a slightly different ending. This form was to influence the Ballade form of later periods. This is our own rhythmic arrangement for playing instrumentally - the tune is too good not to use. Bernart complains of being exiled from Ventadorn because his lady is angry at him - for loving her too much.

Be m'an per - dut lay en - ves Ven - ta - dorn

Tuïh mei a - mic pos ma do - na no m'a - ma

Et es be dreihz que ja mais lai no torn

C'a-des es - tai vas me sal - vat - j'e gra - ma.

Veus per que.m fai sem - blan i - rat e morn:

Car en s'a - mor mi de - lieg em so - jorn

E de res als nos ran - cu - ra nis cla - ma.

A l'entrada del tens clar

Another well-known tune that, curiously, has found its way back into the modern Provençal folk canon. We have given two arrangements here. Our favourite is the first in 7/8 which gives it a lively momentum. For those of a more delicate disposition we also include a version in 6/8.

A l'en-tra-da del tens clar, e - y - a! Pir joi-e re - co-men-car, e - y - a!

et pir ja-lous ir-ri-tar, e - y - a! vol la re-gi - ne mos-tar te'ele est-si a - mo - rou se.

A la vi-e, a la vi - e, Ja-lous, las-saz nos, (las-saz nos),

Bal-lar en-tre nos, en-tre nos

A l'en-tra-da del tens clar, e - y - a! Pir joi-e re - co-men-car, e - y - a!

et pir ja-lous ir-ri-tar, e - y - a! vol la re-gi - ne mos-tar te'ele est-si a - mo - rou se.

A la vi-e, a la vi - e, Ja-lous, las-saz nos, (las-saz nos),

Bal-lar en-tre nos, en-tre nos

Pus astres and estampie

This is a refrain song by the late troubadour Guiraut Riquier. It tells of the poet's wish to be instructed in the ways of true love amongst the noble and gracious ladies of Catalonia (presumably written for the court there).

The estampie is made up from sections of the original tune. The 'open' and 'close' are the two halves of the refrain. This form allows you to add extra sections if you wish - variations, freely composed, improvised, etc. (See Estampies Real for more on this form.)

Pus as - tres no m'es do - natz Que de mi-dons bes m'es - cha-ia,
 Ni nulhs mos pla - zers no.l platz, Ni ai po-der que.m n'es - tra-ia,
 Ops m'es qu'ieu si - a fon - datz En vi - a d'a - mor ve - ra - ia;
 E puesc n'a-pen - re as - satz En Ca - ta-lue - nha la ga-ia,
Refrain
 En tre.ls Ca-ta - lans va - lens E las do-nas a - vi - nens.

Estampie on Pus astres

1st Punctum [1.Open] [2.Close]

2nd Punctum [1.Open] ... [2.Close] ...

3rd Punctum [1.Open] ... [2.Close] ...

4th Punctum [1.Open] ... [2.Close] ...

Domna, pos vos ai chausida and Tant es gaya

These are two examples of Dansas or dance songs. They are some of the very few troubadour melodies to be written in mensural notation (i.e. the manuscript indicates note duration as well as pitch value). It is also common that dansas only have one strophe in the manuscript. The structure of these is similar to the virelai (AbaA - see Cantigas de Santa Maria) where the first two lines act as a refrain, followed by a new section of music, then a repeat of the first section's music to new words, then a repeat of the first section (refrain). This form differs in that it has no more stanzas to follow.

Dom - na, pos vos ai chau - si - da, fatz-me bel sem - blant,
qu'ieu sui a to - ta ma vi - da a vos - tre co - mand.
A vos - tre co - mand se - rai
a tots los jorns de ma vi - a,
e ja de vos no'm par - trai
per de - gu - na au - tra que si - a,
qu'E - recs non a - met E - ni - da tant ni'I - seuts Tris - tan
com ieu vos, dom - na gra - si - da, qu'ieu am ses en - gan
Dom - na, pos vos ai chau - si - da, fatz-me bel sem - blant,
qu'ieu sui a to - ta ma vi - da a vos - tre co - mand.

Tant es gaya

Tant es ga - y'et a - vi - nentz mi - dons, que fin pretz am - pa - ra,
e sa beu - tats si pla - sents per qu'ieu l'am e la tenh ca - ra.
Tant la sai de joi com - pli - da
que non n'a par, sees men - ti - re;
ga - ya, pros et eis - ser - ni - da
per qu'ieu l'am ses con - tra - di - re;
e par es - lu - me - na - ments, tant a fres - ca co - lor ca - ra.
Et a tots bons com - pli - ments e va - lor qu'en ren no's va - ra.
Tant es ga - y'et a - vi - nentz mi - dons, que fin pretz am - pa - ra,
e sa beu - tats si pla - sents per qu'ieu l'am e la tenh ca - ra.


The image shows a musical score for the song 'Tant es gaya'. It consists of ten staves of music, each with a corresponding line of lyrics in Catalan. The music is written in a single melodic line on a treble clef staff. The lyrics are: 'Tant es ga - y'et a - vi - nentz mi - dons, que fin pretz am - pa - ra, e sa beu - tats si pla - sents per qu'ieu l'am e la tenh ca - ra. Tant la sai de joi com - pli - da que non n'a par, sees men - ti - re; ga - ya, pros et eis - ser - ni - da per qu'ieu l'am ses con - tra - di - re; e par es - lu - me - na - ments, tant a fres - ca co - lor ca - ra. Et a tots bons com - pli - ments e va - lor qu'en ren no's va - ra. Tant es ga - y'et a - vi - nentz mi - dons, que fin pretz am - pa - ra, e sa beu - tats si pla - sents per qu'ieu l'am e la tenh ca - ra.'

Three Caroles – Tuit cil, Que ferai and C'est la fins


Medieval caroles have no particular connection to Christmas but rather are a type of dance song. The popularity of caroles can be measured by the large number of medieval sermons denouncing the dancing of caroles (often in the church graveyard). Unfortunately, we do not have any record of what the dance was apart from various painted depictions which show dancers in a line or a circle. The three caroles included here (the first in Occitan; the other two in Old French) show the standard form of these songs. The capitalised text is sung by all the dancers; the rest by the soloist - a form that you can be echoed by an instrumental group. There is never more than one stanza recorded for caroles. People appeared to have spent hours caroling so, presumably, they repeated them many times, made up new words (on the trot, as it were), strung a number of caroles together, or used any other idea to keep the dancers moving.



TUIT CIL QUI SUNT AN - A - MOU-RAT VIE - GNENT DAN-CAR, LI AU-TRE NON!



La re - gi-ne le com - men-dat! TUIT CIL QUI SUNT AN - A - MOU-RAT



Que li ja-lous soi - ent fus-tat Fors de la dan - ce d'un bas-ton.



TUIT CIL QUI SUNT AN - A - MOU-RAT VIE - GNENT DAN-CAR, LI AU - TRE NON!



LI RE - GART DE SES VERZ EUZ M'O - CIST



Que fe - rai, biau si - re Diex? LI RE - GART DE SES VERZ EUZ



J'ai - ten - drai pou a - voir mieux mer - ci



LI RE - GART DE SES VERZ EUZ M'O - CIST

C'est la fins

C'EST LA FINS KOI QUE NUS DI-E, J'A - ME - RAIS.

C'est la jus en mi le pre C'EST LA FINS JE VUL A - MER.

Jus et baus i a le - ves; Be-le a - mie ai.

C'EST LA FINS KOI QUE NUS DI-E, J'A - ME - RAIS.

The musical score for 'C'est la fins' consists of four staves of music in a single system. Each staff begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The melody is written in a simple, folk-like style with quarter and eighth notes, often grouped with slurs. The lyrics are printed below the notes, with hyphens indicating syllables that span across multiple notes. The piece concludes with a double bar line.

J'a nun hons pris

Attributed (by some) to Richard Lionheart and said to have been written whilst he was being held captive in Austria. It is basically a complaint that no-one is paying his ransom - but a lovely tune. This one is good to sing or play fairly freely - don't let it become a waltz.

J'a nun hons pris ne di - ra sa rai - son,

A - droi-te - ment, se do - lan - te-ment non.

Mais par ef - fort puet il fai - re chan - son,

Mout ai a - mis, mais pov - re sunt li don.

Hon-tei a - vront, se por ma re - an - son

Sui ca Deus y - vers pris

The musical score for 'J'a nun hons pris' consists of six staves of music in a single system. Each staff begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The melody is written in a simple, folk-like style with quarter and eighth notes, often grouped with slurs. There are three triplet markings (indicated by a '3' above the notes) in the second, fourth, and sixth staves. The lyrics are printed below the notes, with hyphens indicating syllables that span across multiple notes. The piece concludes with a double bar line.

Au renouvel

This is an example of one of the lighter styles of trouvère song. A knight is riding along in spring and overhears a debate between two women in a field as to whether it is better to love a poor man who is handsome and refined or a rich man with no beauty or brains...



Au re-nou-vel du tens que la flo - re - te Nest pae ces prez et in - dete et blan - che - te,



Trou-vai soz u - ne cou-dre-te coil - lant vi - o - le - te



Da-me qui re - sen-bloit fe - e et sa com-pai - gne - te,



A qui el se de-men-tiot De deus a - mis qu'ele a - voit Au quel ele ert a - mi - e:



Ou au po-vre qu'est cor-tois, Preuz et lar-ges plus que rois Et biaux sanz vi - la - ni - e,



Ou au ri - che qu'a as-sez a - voir et ma-nan - di - e,



Mes en li n'a ne biau-te ne sens ne cor-toi - si - e.

Estampies Real

Two of the 7 (and a half) "Estampies Real" (i.e. royal estampies) from the *Manuscript du Roi*. The estampie was also a dance form, but we know even less about how it was danced than the carole. It also appears to have been the most common form of instrumental music (but there are only 30-odd instrumental pieces recorded before 1400). What is distinctive is the form, with each section repeating a melody first with an 'open' ending, then with a 'closed' ending, and the same endings used throughout. They are much played and loved by instrumentalists. These two make a nice pair (we usually play them in the opposite order - no. 6 then no. 5)

Estampie no. 5

The musical score for Estampie no. 5 consists of four staves, each representing a punctum. The first staff is labeled "1st Punctum" and features two endings: "1. Open" and "2. Close". The second staff is labeled "2nd Punctum" and features two endings: "1. Open ..." and "2. Close ...". The third staff is labeled "3rd Punctum" and features two endings: "1. Open ..." and "2. Close ...". The fourth staff is labeled "4th Punctum" and features two endings: "1. Open ..." and "2. Close ...". The music is written in a single melodic line on a treble clef staff with a key signature of one flat (B-flat).

Note: the end of each punctum has the complete 'Open' on the first time through, then the complete 'Close' on the repeat.

Estampie no. 6

The musical score for Estampie no. 6 consists of four staves, each representing a punctum. The first staff is labeled "1st Punctum" and features two endings: "1. Open" and "2. Close". The second staff is labeled "2nd Punctum" and features two endings: "1. Open ..." and "2. Close ...". The third staff is labeled "3rd Punctum" and features two endings: "1. Open ..." and "2. Close ...". The fourth staff is labeled "4th Punctum" and features two endings: "1. Open ..." and "2. Close ...". The music is written in a single melodic line on a treble clef staff with a key signature of one flat (B-flat).

Miri it is while sumer ilast

Very few songs in (Middle) English have survived with music (all of them can be found in Dobson and Harrison, *Medieval English Songs*.) as most songs at this time were written in Anglo-Norman or Latin. Most that have been found are fragments, eg. with the manuscript used in bindings for later books. Such is the case for 'Miri it is'. It is fortunate that we now have the tune but unfortunate that it was at the bottom of the fragment so only the first stanza has survived. This song dates from early-mid 13th century and probably comes from around Cambridge which, presumably, had some spectacularly miserable winters in those days.

Mi - ri it is whi - le su - mer i - last with fu - ghe - les song,
oc nu ne - heth win - des blast and we - der strong.
Ei, ei what this niht is long, and ich, with wel mi - chel wrong,
so - regh and murn and fast.

The image shows a musical score for the song 'Miri it is while sumer ilast'. It consists of four staves of music in a single system, all written in a treble clef with a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The lyrics are written below the notes. The first two staves have a simple melody with quarter and half notes. The third staff features a more complex melody with eighth and sixteenth notes, including some beamed eighth notes. The fourth staff continues the melody with quarter and half notes. The lyrics are: 'Mi - ri it is whi - le su - mer i - last with fu - ghe - les song, oc nu ne - heth win - des blast and we - der strong. Ei, ei what this niht is long, and ich, with wel mi - chel wrong, so - regh and murn and fast.'

Cantigas de Santa Maria (CSM)

These are from the collection of 400+ songs relating miracles performed by the Virgin Mary recorded in four manuscripts (only three with music), commissioned by Alfonso X 'El Sabio' (the Wise) of Castille in the late 13th century. The stories themselves seem to vary from the fanciful to the extremely implausible and often go on at great length (up to 30 stanzas) - no doubt all part of a fine evening's entertainment.

The tunes are often in a popular 'folk' style with refrains that could have been sung by the original audience in much the same way as more recent folk tunes. Many of the tunes would make a good basis for folk.

The form of most cantigas is the Virelai. This starts with the refrain and then has stanzas with refrains between and ends again with the refrain. The second part of each stanza has the same melody as the refrain. This can be expressed as:

AbaAbaAba... where 'A' is the refrain,

'b' is the first part of the stanza (often with a repeated section), and

'a' is the second part of the stanza to the music of the refrain

The notation used by the scribes for the cantigas indicates the rhythm (unlike the troubadour and trouvère repertory) but in many places is quite ambiguous. It is quite possible for different people to transcribe these tunes with very different rhythmic interpretation. Most of those we have included are generally accepted transcriptions with minor differences (except CSM 9 which has a non-standard rhythm but seems entirely plausible to us).

The numbering of the cantigas is different in each manuscript. The numbering we use is from E1 (El Escorial MS B.I.2 / B.J.2 / j.b.2) which is the same as used by Hingio Anglés in his complete edition.

A very useful website for the Cantigas with facsimiles is <http://www.pbm.com/~lindahl/cantigas/>

Included:

CSM 7 - Santa Maria amar

CSM 9 - Por que nos aiamos

CSM 100 - Santa Maria Stella do Dia

CSM 111 - En todo tempo

CSM 119 - Como somos per consello

CSM 139 - Maravillosos et piadosos

CSM 159 - Non soffre Santa Maria

CSM 167 - Quen quer que na Virgen fia

CSM 302 - A madre de Jhesu Cristo

CSM 377 - Sempr'a Virgen groriosa

CSM 391 - Como pod' a groriosa

CSM 7 - Santa Maria amar

Refrain



San-ta Ma-ri - a a - mar de-ve - mos muit' e ro - gar que
a ssa gra-ca pon - na so-bre nos, por - que er - rar
non nos fa - ca nen pec - car o de - mo sen ver - gon - na.

Stanza



Po-ren - de vos con - ta - rey d'un mi - ra - gre que a - chei, que
por hu - a ba - des - sa fez a Ma-dre do gran Rei,
ca, per com' eu a - pres' ei, e - ra - xe su - a es - sa.
Mas o de-mo en - ar - tar a foi, por - que em - pren - nar s'ou-
- ve d'un de Bo - lon - na, o-me que de ra - ca - dar
a - vi - a, et de guar - dar, seu feit' e sa be - son - na.

CSM 9 - Por que nos aiamos

Refrain



Por que nos a - ia - mos sen-pre, noit' e di - a, de-la re - nen-bran-ça,



en Do-mas ac - ha-mos que San-ta Ma-r - ia fez gran de-mo-stran - ça.

Stanza



En es - ta ci - da - de, que vos ei ja di - ta, ouv' y hu - a do - na, de mui san - ta vi - da,



Mui fa - ze - dor d'alg - u'e, de to - do mal qui - ta, ri - ca e mui no - bre, e de ben com - pri - da



Mas, por que sa - biá - mos co - mo non que - ri - a do mun - do ga - ban - ça,



co - mo fez di - ga - mos h al - ber - ga - ri - a, u fi - llou mo - ran - ça.

CSM 100 - Santa Maria Stella do Dia

Refrain



San - ta Ma - ri - a Ste - la do di - a mos - tra nos ui - a pe - ra Deus et nos gui - a.

Stanza



Ca ue er fa - zel os er - ra - dos que per - der fo - ran per pe - ca - dos



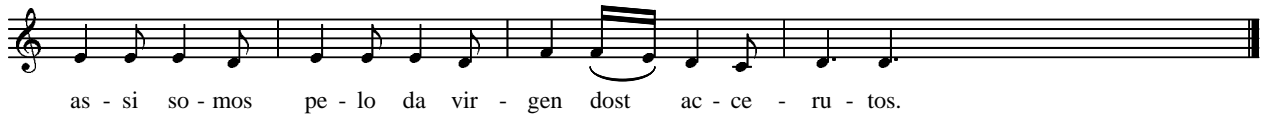
en - ten - der de que mui cul - pa - dos son, mais per ti son per - do - a - dos



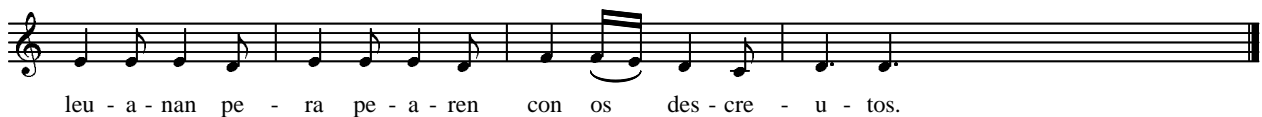
da ou - sa - di - a que lles fa - zi - a fa - zer fo - li - a mais que non deu - e - ri - a.

CSM 119 - Como somos per consello

Refrain



Stanza



CSM 139 - Maravillosos et piadosos

Refrain



Stanza



CSM 159 - Non soffre Santa Maria

Refrain



Non sof - fre San - ta Ma - ri - a de se - e - ren per - di - do - sos



os que as sas ro - ma - ri - as son de fa - zer de - sei - o - sos.

Stanza



E d'est' o yd un mi - ra - gre de que uos que - ro fa - lar,



que mos - trou San - ta Ma - ri - a per com eu o y con - tar



a u - is ro - meus que fo - ron a Ro - ca - ma - dor o - rar



co - mo mui bo - os cris - cha - os sim - ple - ment e o - mil - do - sos.

CSM 167 - Quen quer que

Refrain



Quen quer que na Vir-gen fi - a e a ro - ga de fe - men ³ - ça,
va - ler - ll - á, pe - ro que se - ja d'ou - tra lee en cre - en - ça

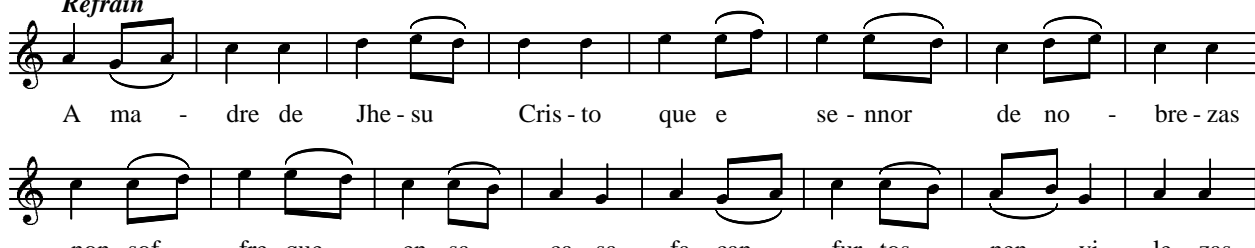
Stanza



De - sta ra - zon fez mi - ra - gre San - ta Ma - ri - a, fre - mo - so,
de Sa - las, por ha mou - ra de Bor - ja, e pi - a - do - so,
ea un fi - llo que a - vi - a, que cri - a - va, mui vi - ço ³ - so,
lle mor - re - ra mui coi - ta - do da [muy] for - te do - en - ça.

CSM 302 - A madre de Jhesu Cristo

Refrain



A ma - dre de Jhe - su Cris - to que e se - nnor de no - bre - zas
non sof - fre que en sa ca - sa fa - can fur - tos nen vi - le - zas.

Stanza



E d'est un mui gran mi - ra - gre vos di - rei que me ju - ra - ron
o - me - es de bo - a vi - da e por ver - da - de mos - tra - ron
que fe - zo San - ta Ma - ri - a de Mons - sar - rat, e con - ta - ron
Do que fez un a - vol o - me por mos - trar sas a - vo - le - zas

CSM 377 - Sempr'a Virgen groriosa

Refrain

Sem - pr'a Vir - gen gro - ri - o - sa ao que s'en e - la fi - a
a - ju - da - o per que ven - ca gran bra - ve - za e per - fi - a.

Stanza

E de tal ra - zon com' es - ta fez un mi - ra - gr'a rey - nna
San - ta Ma - ri - a do Por - to por un o - me que se tij - nna
con e - la e os seus li - vros pin - ta - va ben e a - gi - nna,
as - si que a mui - tos ou - tros de sa - ber pin - ta ven - ci - a.

CSM 391 - Como pod' a groriosa

Refrain

Co - mo pod' a gro - ri - o - sa os mor - tos fa - zer vi - ver,
ben ou - tros - si pod' os nem - bros dos con - trei - tos cor - re - ger.

Stanza

Des - to di - rei un mi - ra - gre que e - no gran Por - to fez,
que e seu des - ta Re - in - na glo - ri - o - sa de gran prez,
a u - a mo - ca que ve - o y con - trei - ta de Xe - rez,
que be - yes as - si na - ce - ra, se - gun que o - i di - zer.

Italian Lauda

The Laudi were devotional hymns of the confraternities of Italy in the 13th – 14th century. They were often used in processions involving a number of singers and instrumentalists (laudesi). Some have suggested that many Laudi were sacred texts set to popular tunes (a common process as was the setting of secular texts to ‘sacred’ melodies). This would appear to be a largely untapped area of medieval music. It is also a fine source for ‘ceremonial’ music.

Lauda novela

Refrain

Lau - da no - vel - la si - a can - ta - ta A l'al - ta don - na en - co - ro - na - ta.

Stanza

Fres - ca ver - ge - ne don - cel - la Pri - mo fior ro - sa no - vel - la

Tut - to' l' mon - do a te s'a - pel - la Nel - la bo - nor fo - sti na - ta

Plangiamo quel crudel

Refrain

Plan - gia - mo quel cru - del ba - scia - re

Ke fe' per noi De - o cru - cia - re.

Stanza

Ven - ne Ju - da fra - di - to - re,

Ba - scio li die - d'e gran do - lo - re; Lo qual fa - ciam noi per a - mo - re

A lui fo si - gno di pe - na - re.

Guillaume de Machaut

Guillaume de Machaut was the secretary to, in succession, the Kings of Luxembourg, Navarre, France and Cyprus and was active through much of the 14th century. He was probably the most influential composer and poet in France in that period. He has been described as the bridge between the older styles (ars antiqua) and the new (ars nova). Although better known for his sacred and polyphonic works we have included 2 of his monophonic virelai.

Comment qu'a moy lontaine

Refrain



Stanza




Douce dame jolie

Refrain



Dou - ce da - me jo - li - e, Pour dieu ne pen - sés mi - e
Que nulle ait si - gno - ri - e Seul moy fors vous seu - le - ment.

Stanza



Qu'a - dès sans tri - che - ri - e Chie - ri - e Vous ay et hum - ble - ment
Tous les jours de ma vi - e Ser - vi - e Sans vi - llain pen - se - ment.
He - las! et je men - di - e D'es - pe - ran - ce et d'âi - e;
Dont ma joie est fe - ni - e, Se pi - té ne vous en prent.

Italian Instrumental Dances

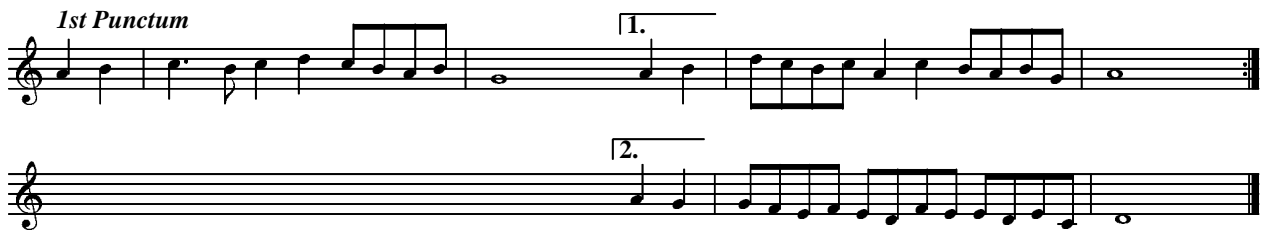
Two more of the surviving instrumental pieces, these are from a late 14th century North Italian manuscript containing 17 instrumental pieces among secular and sacred vocal pieces. La Manfredina and Rotta are a dance pair where the first part is slow and the second part is a fast variation. (Lamento di Tristano is another better known example – there is only one other that I know of.) Note that the structure is the same as for the estampie but typically with longer 'open' and 'close' sections.

Saltarello no. 2

The musical score for Saltarello no. 2 is presented in a single system with eight staves. The first two staves are labeled '1. Open' and '2. Close'. The next two staves are labeled '1st Punctum' and '2nd Punctum', each with 'Open ...' and 'Close ...' sections. The third staff is labeled '% 3rd Punctum'. The final staff is labeled '4th Punctum' and includes a 'D.S.% (3rd Punctum)' section. The music is written in a single melodic line on a treble clef staff.

La Manfredina and Rotta

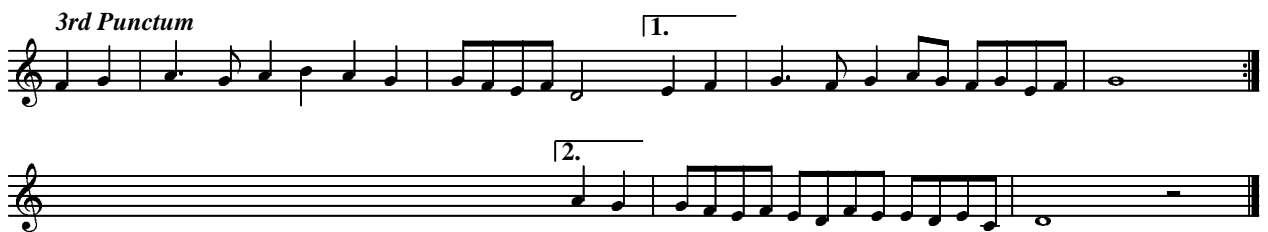
1st Punctum



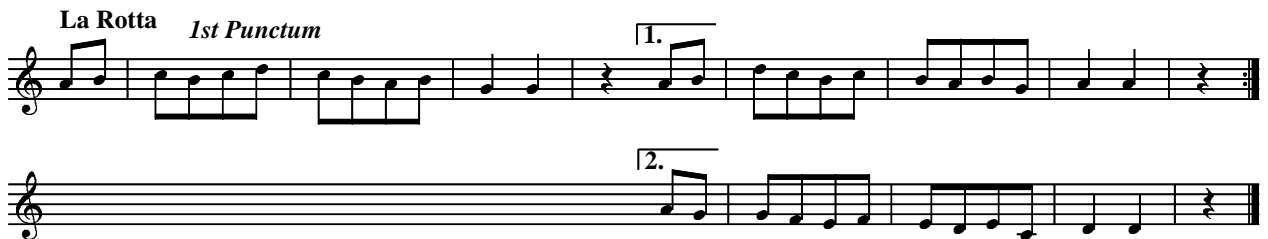
2nd Punctum



3rd Punctum



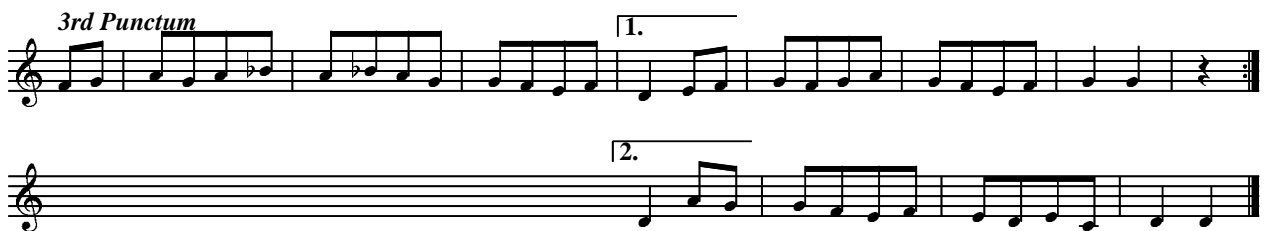
La Rotta 1st Punctum



2nd Punctum



3rd Punctum



Llibre Vermell

The Llibre Vermell of Montserrat was compiled in Northern Spain at the end of the 14th Century. The name ('Red Book') derives from a 18th century leather binding. It is a collection of ten pilgrim songs. There is a story that pilgrims in the area were spending too much time singing and dancing popular songs & dances instead of contemplating the meaning of their pilgrimage. So the church gave them some songs that had more suitable lyrics, reusing the popular tunes. They are all in the virelai form discussed in the Cantigas section.

Cuncti simus

Refrain




Cunc-ti si-mus con-ca-nen-tes, A-ve Ma-ri-a



Cunc-ti si-mus con-ca-nen-tes, A-ve Ma-ri-a

Stanza



Vir-go so-la ex-sis-ten-te en af-fu-it an-ge-lus



Ga-bri-el est ap-pel-la-tus at-que mis-sus ce-li-tus



Cla-ra fa-ci-e-que di-xit, A-ve Ma-ri-a



Cla-ra fa-ci-e-que di-xit, A-ve Ma-ri-a

Los sept goyts

Refrain



A - ve Ma - ri - a, gra - ci - a ple - nna Do - mi - nus te - cum, Vir - go se - re - na



A - ve Ma - ri - a, gra - ci - a ple - nna Do - mi - nus te - cum, Vir - go se - re - na

Stanza



Ver - ge, fos a - nans del part Pu - ra, e sens fal - li - ment



En lo part e pres lo part Sens nu - gen cor - rum - pi - ment.



Lo fill de De - us, ver - ge pi - a, de vos nas - que ve - ra - ment.



Lo fill de De - us, ver - ge pi - a, de vos nas - que ve - ra - ment.

Polorum Regina

Refrain



Po - lo - rum Re - gi - na, om - ni - um nos - tra



Stel - la ma - tu - ti - na, de - le sce - le - ra.

Stanza



An - te par - tum vir - go De - o gra - vi - da



Sem - per per - man - sis - ti in - vi - o - la - ta



Stel - la ma - tu - ti - na, de - le sce - le - ra.

Ad mortem festinamus

Refrain



Ad mor - tem fes - ti - na - mus, pec - ca - re de - sis - ta - mus

Stanza



Scri - be - re pro - po - su - i de con - temp - tu mun - da - no



Ut de gen - tes se - cu - li non mul - cen - tur in va - no.



Jam est ho - ra sur - ge - re A somp - no mor - tis pra - vo

Sources

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A l'entrada del tens clar	Le Chansonnier de St Germain - Paris B.N. ,f.fr. 20050
Domna pos vos ai chausida, Tant es gaia, Estampies Real	Le Manuscrit du Roi - Paris B.N., f.fr. 844c
Tuit cil, Que ferai	Montpellier - Faculté de Médecine, H 196 (duplum of Li jalous/Tuit cil/VERTATEM and J'ai les maus/Que ferai/IN SECULUM)
C'est la fins	Rome, Biblioteca Vaticana 1490
J'a nun hons pris	Le Chansonnier Cangé - Paris B.N., f.fr. 846
Au renouvel	Trouvère MS K - Paris, Bibliotheque de l'Arsenal, 5198
Miri it is	Oxford, Bodleian Library, MS Rawlinson G.22
Cantigas de Santa Maria	El Escorial, MS j.b.2
Lauda novela, Plangiamo	Cortona, Biblioteca del Comune e dell'Accademia Etrusca 91
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Tischler, Hans, *Trouvère lyrics with melodies: complete comparative edition* (15 volumes) Neuhausen, American Institute of Musicology, Hanssler-Verlag, 1997

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Werf, Hendrik van der, *The Chansons of the Troubadours and Trouvères*, Utrecht 1972

Transcribed in stemless notation, about 20 songs, Good introduction.

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Transcribed in stemless notation. Hard to find but, as the title suggests, complete with every known melody in all versions.

Spanish Song

Anglés, Higinio, ed. *La musica de las cantigas de Santa Maria del Rey Alfonso El Sabio* 3 vols, Barcelona 1943-64

Very hard to find; it tends to hide in the rare books section of National Libraries. Apparently the only book with more than 4 or 5 of the 400+ cantigas. Volume 1 has complete facsimiles; volume 2 has transcriptions; volume 3 has commentaries.

<http://www.pbm.com/~lindahl/cantigas/>

Complete facsimiles of all cantigas taken from Anglés (see above), plus links to other cantiga related materials on the web.

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“Includes all of the compositions that are known or suspected to be instrumental dances from before ca. 1430.” Useful introduction.

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