

Anonymous

J'ay prins amours a ma devise a 3

Edition and comments by

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January 2013, revised September 2022

<http://chansonniers.pwch.dk/CH/CH036.html>

This edition is extracted from the online project *The Copenhagen Chansonnier and the 'Loire Valley' chansonniers*, which consists of linked html-files and a great number of single PDF editions. It can be accessed at <http://chansonniers.pwch.dk/>.

Each html-file about a song contains lists of sources, and edition and translation of the poetic texts, discussion of the main sources and comments on text and music. Separate files hold lists of contents and descriptions of the sources. Other files contain papers and notes on related topics. The online edition offers many cross references and links to online facsimile editions. These links had to be simplified in the present edition.

Each version of a song is regarded as a valid performance by a scribe/musician, and therefore they are published separately. In most cases there will be no attempts to imagine the intentions of the composer or to reconstruct exactly what the composer had written when the music left his pen. Rather the aim is to interpret the written music in largely the same way as 15th century performers may have read it. Many details, which in one source are different from other sources, must be accepted by the editor as valid elements in a performance of the actual source. Sources marked by an asterisk * are included in the edition.

Sigla

The related 'Loire Valley' chansonniers

Copenhagen	Copenhagen, The Royal Library, MS Thott 291 8° http://www.kb.dk/permalink/2006/manus/702/dan/0+recto/
Dijon	Dijon, Bibliothèque Municipale, Ms. 517 http://patrimoine.bm-dijon.fr/pleade/img-viewer/MS00517/viewer.html
Laborde	Washington D.C., Library of Congress, MS M2.1 L25 Case (Laborde Chansonnier) https://www.loc.gov/resource/ihas.200152631.0/?sp=1
Leuven	Leuven, Alamire Foundation, Manuscript without shelf number (Leuven Chansonnier) http://depot.lias.be/delivery/DeliveryManagerServlet?dps_pid=IE9381778
Nivelle	Paris, Bibliothèque nationale, Rés. Vmc. ms. 57 (Chansonnier Nivelle de la Chaussée) http://gallica.bnf.fr/ark:/12148/btv1b55007270r/f1.image
Wolfenbüttel	Wolfenbüttel, Herzog August Bibliothek, Codex Guelf. 287 Extravag. http://digilib.hab.de/wdb.php?dir=mss/287-extrav

Other sources

Bologna Q16	Bologna, Civico Museo Bibliografico Musicale, MS Q16
Escorial IV.a.24	Real Monasterio de San Lorenzo del Escorial, Biblioteca y Archivo de Musica, MS IV.a.24
Florence 27	Firenze, Biblioteca Nazionale Centrale, Ms. Panciatichi 27
Munich 5023	München, Bayerische Staatsbibliothek, Cod. lat. mon. 5023
Paris 15123	Paris, Bibliothèque Nationale, ms. f.fr. 15123 (Chansonnier Pixérécourt)
Paris 2973	Paris, Bibliothèque Nationale, ms. Rothschild 2973 (Chansonnier Cordiforme)
Paris 4379	Paris, Bibliothèque Nationale, ms. nouv. acq. fr. 4379
Perugia 431	Perugia, Biblioteca Comunale Augusta, Ms. 431 (G20)
Urbino intarsia	Urbino, Palazzo Ducale, Studiolo, Intarsia (1476)

Text sources

Berlin 78.B.17	Berlin, Staatsliche Museen der Stiftung Preußischer Kulturbesitz, Kupferstichkabinett, Ms. 78.B.17 (Chansonnier Rohan)
London 380	London, BritishLibrary, MS Lansdowne 380
Jardin 1501	<i>Le Jardin de plaisir et fleur de rhetorique</i> , Paris, [Antoine Verard, 1501]

Literature

Fallows 1999	David Fallows, <i>A Catalogue of Polyphonic Songs, 1415-1480</i> . Oxford 1999
Löpelmann 1923	M. Löpelmann (ed.), <i>Die Liederhandschrift des Cardinals de Rohan</i> (Gesellschaft für romanische Litteratur, Band 44) Göttingen 1923
Meconi 1994	Honey Meconi, 'Art-Song Reworkings: An Overview', <i>Journal of the Royal Musical Association</i> 119 (1994), pp. 1-42

J'ay pris amours a ma devise 3v · Anonymous

Appearance in the group of related chansonniers:

- *Dijon f. 7 »J'ay pris amours« 2v [3v] (T and C only, version B)
- *Laborde ff. 31v-32 »J'ay pris amours a ma devise« 3v (version A)
- *Leuven ff. 16v-17 »J'ay pris amours a ma devise« 3v (Version B)
- *Nivelle ff. 71v-72 »J'ay pris amours a ma devise« 3v (version B)
- *Wolfenbüttel ff. 37v-38 »J'ay pris amours a ma devise« 3v (version B)

Other sources:

- Bologna Q16 ff. 138v-139 »Ja pris amor« 3v (Version B)
- Escorial IV.a.24 f. 136v »J'ay pris amours a ma devise« 1v [3v] (T only, version A)
- Florence 27 f. 41v »Johay pris amor« 1v [3v] (C only, version B)
- Munich 5023 f. 54v-55 »O preciosum convivium« 2v (version B)
- Paris 15123 ff. 21v-22 »Jy pris amoris a ma devise« 3v (version B)
- Paris 2973 ff. 23v-24 »J'ay pris amours a ma devise« 3v (version B)
- *Paris 4379 ff. 27v-28 »J'ay pris amours en ma devise« 3v (version A)
- Perugia 431 ff. 75v-76 »Jam pris amore« 3v (version B)
- Urbino intarsia - »J'ay pris amours a ma devise« 3v (version A)

The list of *Other sources* contains the vocal sources for versions A and B only, which can be placed in the 15th century. For further sources, the many reworkings, contrafacta, citations, and use in other compositions, see Meconi 1994, pp. 33-34, and Fallows 1999, pp. 195-198.

Text: Rondeau quatrain; full text in Laborde, Leuven, Nivelle and Wolfenbüttel, also in Paris 2973 and Paris 4379; also found in Berlin 78.B.17 f. 160 (no. 470), ed.: Löpelmann 1923, p. 301; London 380 f. 242v; Jardin 1501 f. 71v (no. 102). After Wolfenbüttel:

<i>J'ay pris amours a ma devise pour conquerir joyeuseté; heureux seray en cest' esté, se puis venir a mon emprinse.</i> (1)	I have taken love as my devise in order to win joyfulness; I shall be happy this summer, if I can get my token of love.
<i>S'il est aulcun qui m'en deprise, (2) il me doit estre pardonné.</i>	If anyone for that should despise me, I must be forgiven.
<i>J'ay pris amours a ma devise pour conquerir joyeuseté.</i>	I have taken love as my devise in order to win joyfulnes
<i>Il me semble que c'est la guise, qui n'a riens, il est debouté, (3) et n'est de personne honnoré; n'esse pas droit que je y vise? (4)</i>	I think that this is how it is, he who has no [token] is rebuffed, and no one honours him; Is it then not right that I look for it?
<i>J'ay pris amours a ma devise pour conquerir joyeuseté; heureux seray en cest' esté, se puis venir a mon emprinse.</i>	I have taken love as my devise in order to win joyfulness; I shall be happy this summer, if I can get my token of love.

- 1) Laborde, line 4, "...en mon emprinse"; Paris 4379, "s'advenir puis a mon emprise"
- 2) Nivelle, line 5, "...qu'il me desprie"
- 3) Laborde, line 10, "car qui n'a riens est deboute"
- 4) Wolfenbüttel, line 12, "... je y advise"; Leuven, "n'esse pas donc que je vise?"; Nivelle, "n'esse point droit ..."; Paris 4379, "n'esse pas droit dont que gy vise"
 - in addition some differences in spelling.

Evaluation of the sources:

Obviously, this song was quite old and wide-travelled when it was entered into five of the six 'Loire Valley' chansonniers, where it appears in two different versions, one in Laborde (version A) and one in the four other sources (version B).

Laborde provides, as observed by David Fallows, probably the original version of the song. Here it is structured as a superius-tenor duet with the ranges of the core voices an octave apart, and they are supplemented by a filling-in contratenor occupying the same range as the tenor. The contratenor lies mostly above the tenor and takes the fifth in all cadences. This version enjoyed a considerable early dissemination, which is confirmed by its appearance in an intarsia in the Palazzo Ducale in Urbino, in the Studiolo of Federico III da Montefeltro, probably executed by Baccio Pontelli before 1476, in the slightly younger MS Paris 4379/Sevilla 5-I-43, and most probable as the single tenor-part in Escorial IV.a.24. Even if these sources transmit the same version of the song, details in the poetic text and in the use of ligatures and cadential ornamentation reveal that it circulated in different traditions of transmission (see the editions of Laborde and Paris 4379). The intarsia-version in Urbino is closest to Laborde.¹

The most important difference between Laborde and the Mantuan and the Napolitan versions is that the Laborde scribe prescribes hexachordal signatures of one flat in the lower voices. These flats cannot be applied to the music, which while centred on A is strongly coloured by E-Phrygian, and they must be regarded as errors. It is unexplainable why the scribe entered them, but the same phenomenon appears in the following song, Ockeghem's widely circulated »Ma bouche rit et ma pensee pleure« on ff. 32v-34.² This erroneous grasp of hexachordal signatures mars several of the Laborde scribe's copies of songs which should not have been supplied with flats in the lower voices (see for example the songs on ff. 38v-39, 68v-69 and 70v-72).

In Laborde the words of the refrain is also underlaid the tenor part, almost complete. This underscores the melodic importance of this part.

Leuven, Wolfenbüttel, Nivelle and Dijon (missing the upper voice) transmit a version with a low contratenor (B), which obviously was based on the original high contratenor. A probable reason for this could be that the very high tessitura of the original might have a tendency to overpower the musical line of the tenor if performed by a singer – and the new low voice did impart the beloved song with a more 'modern' sound. Its range lies a fifth below the tenor, and it never takes the fifth above at cadences. It offers harmonic support to the upper voices' duet, while it at the same time tries to preserve some characteristics of the original part. For example, bars 18-21 are virtually unchanged, while in the

1 For a video presentation and more of the Urbino Studiolo, see <http://www.gutenberg-e.org/kirkbride/index.html>.

2 At <http://chansonniers.pwch.dk/CH/CH038.html>.

following bars the forward-pushing cadential figuration in Laborde is transposed down an octave, stripped of its suspension and made quite ineffective in its lightly disguised parallel thirds with the tenor. Likewise, its entrance as the last voice in bars 38-40 and 45-47 is preserved. Fallows enumerates three more versions (C, D and E) involving revisions of the contratenor.³

The four sources transmit the same version of the song, but the many differences in the use of ligatures show that also this version had been in circulation for some time, and that different exemplars were used. Dijon exhibits a signature of one flat in the contratenor. The note *B*, which the flat literally taken addresses, appears only twice in the part – in bars 14 and 36. One has probably to sing a natural in bar 14 as in bar 9; only the concord of the fifth in relation to the tenor in bar 36 might have induced the scribe to introduce this signature.

Comments on text and music:

The poem tells about the external appearances of courtly love. The poet wants to wear on his clothes a token, a coloured band or something, of his welcome admiration for a lady, visible to all (and a bit foolish, cf. lines 5-6). One could say that the poem depicts the comic-strip version of the ideals of love and therefore was highly successful. In addition to the text, the core voices of the song contributed much to the song's attraction. They are singable, lyrical and slightly elegiac in their Phrygian colouring underscored by the dropping line endings of most melodic segments in the tenor; they alternate declamation, free polyphony and canonic imitation at the octave of short motives kept within ranges of fourths - all easy and attractive to sing or listen to.

The impressive list of compositions building on the superius or the tenor voice or both, and the song's reuse as Italian laude (five different texts), attests to the degree to which this song caught the imagination of its time.⁴ As Honey Meconi remarked, not everybody appreciated its success.⁵ At least two contemporary songs caricature its triviality, in Dijon, »J'ay prins deux pous a ma chemise« (ff. 127v-128), and in Florence 176 and Paris 4379, »J'ay pris ung pou a ma chemise« (see the comments and editions).⁶

In the early version of "J'ay prins amours" (A), the high contratenor at every incision carry the musical flow forward; in bars 8-9 and 14-17 the contratenor cadences with the tenor. In the younger version (B) this function is not as effective, and this has some consequences for the text placement. In Laborde the text of the 2nd line in the tenor starts in bar 18, and the last syllable of the 1st line is clearly indicated as still sounding in bar 17. In Paris 4379 and in Leuven the note repetition in the tenor in bars 14-15 is replaced by a dotted *brevis*. This may be the original version of this passage. However, the note repetition has been retained in the revised version (B) of the MSS Wolfenbüttel, Nivelle and Dijon, therefore a different texting of this passage seems obvious. Also in this case, some of the elegance and natural flow of the original was lost during the revision.

3 David Fallows, *A Catalogue of Polyphonic Songs, 1415-1480*. Oxford 1999, p. 196.

4 Fallows 1999, pp. 196-197, Honey Meconi, 'Art-Song Reworkings: An Overview', *Journal of the Royal Musical Association* 119 (1994), pp. 1-42, at pp. 33-34.

5 Meconi 1994, p. 9.

6 At <http://chansonniers.pwch.dk/CH/CH117.html> and <http://chansonniers.pwch.dk/CH/CH555.html>.

Dijon no. 1

Dijon, Bibliothèque Municipale, MS 517, f. 7

J'ay pris amours [Anonymous]

[Superius]

1) Mensura = \bullet

1. 4. J'ay pris a - mours a que ma c'est
3. II me sem - ble

1. 4. J'ay pris a - mours a que ma c'est
3. II me sem - ble

1. 4. J'ay pris a - mours a que
3. II me sem - ble

8
de la vi gui - - - - se,
de la vi gui - - - - se,
ma c'est de la vi gui - - - - se, se,

15
pour qui con n'a que rir rien,
pour qui con n'a que rir rien,
pour qui con n'a que rir rien, joi il

24
joi il eu est de se bou té; té,
joi il eu est de se bou té; té,
eu est de se bou té; té,

1) *Superius* is missing in the MS owing to the loss of the preceding page; text and music added according to Nivelle.2) *Contratenor*, bars 25-26, the note values are: one *brevis* and two *semibreves* (error).

Dijon no. 1, p. 2

33

eu - reux se - ray en cest' ne_ho -

eu - reux se - ray en

eu - reux n'est se - ray de en per -

es - té, se puis ve - nir a que

no - ré; n'es - se point droit que

cest' es - té, se puis ve - nir

ne_ho - no - ré; n'es - se point droit

cest' son - ne_ho - no - té, se

es - no - - - ré; n'es - se

mon je em - pri - - - se. se?

a que mon je em y - - - pri vi - - se. se?

ve point nir droit a que mon je em y - - - pri vi - - se. se?

49

50

51

Dijon no. 1, p. 3

2a. S'il est au - cun qu'il me
2b. J'ay pris a - mours a ma

2a. S'il est au - cun qu'il me
2b. J'ay pris a - mours a ma

2a. S'il est au - cun qu'il a
2b. J'ay pris a - mours

8

des de pri se,
des de pri se,
me ma des de pri se,
me ma des de pri se,

15

il pour me con que doit rir
il pour me con que doit rir
il pour me con que doit rir es joi

24

es joi - tre eu - par - don - né.
es joi - tre eu - par - don - né.
es joi - tre eu - par - don - né.

Laborde no. 22

Washington D.C., Library of Congress, MS M2.1 L25 Case, ff. 31v-32

[Superius] Mensura = \bullet

1. 4. J'ay prins a - mours a que ma
3. II me sem - ble c'est

1. 4. J'ay prins a - mours a que
3. II me sem - ble

1. 4. J'ay prins a - mours a que
3. II me sem - ble

de la vi - gu - se,
ma c'est de la vi - gu - se,
ma c'est de la vi - gu - se,

pour car con qui que n'a rir joy -
pour car con qui que n'a rir riens

pour car con qui que n'a

eu est de se bou - té;
joy est eu de se bou - té;

rir riens joy est eu de se bou - té;

1) Tenor and Contra have key signatures of one flat in all staves (error).

33

1)

heu et reulx n'est se de ray en cest' ne hon -

heu et reulx n'est se de ray en

heu et reulx n'est se ray de en per -

41

es nou té, se puis ve nir en que

cest' ne hon nou té, se puis ve nir pas droit

cest' son es nou té, se puis ve pas

49

mon je em y prin vi se. se?

en que mon je em y prin vi se. se?

nir droit en que mon je em y prin vi se. se?

1) *Superius*, bar 37, the fermata has been misplaced by error; it should have been in bar 31 as in the lower voices. As a result the text has been shifted accordingly in the MS: the last syllable "-te" of the preceding line is placed under bar 37, and the next line "heureulx ..." starts at bar 38.

2a. S'il est aul - cun qui m'en
 2b. J'ay prins a - mours a ma

2a. *S'il est aul - cun qui a*
 2b. *J'ay prins a - mours a*

2a. *S'il est aul - cun qui a*
 2b. *J'ay prins a - mours a*

8
 des de pri - se,
 de vi - se,
 m'en ma des de pri - se,
 ma des de vi - se,
 m'en ma des de pri - se,

15
 il pour me con que doit es joy -
 il pour me con que doit rir
 il pour me doit con es que - - -

25
 tre eu par don se né.
 joy eu par se don né.
 rir joy par eu don né.

Leuven no. 12

Leuven, Almire Foundation, Manuscript without shelf number, ff. 16v-17

J'ay pris amours a ma devise [Anonymous]

[Superius] Mensura = ♩

1. 4. J'ay pris a - mours a que ma
3. II me sem - ble que c'est

1. 4. J'ay pris a - mours a que
3. II me sem - ble que 1)

1. 4. J'ay pris a - mours a que
3. II me sem - ble que

de la vi - se,
ma c'est de la vi - se,
ma c'est de la vi - se,

pour qui con - que - rir riens,
pour qui con - que - rir riens,
pour qui con - que - rir riens,
pour qui con - que - rir riens,

joy il eu est se de bou té; té,
joy il eu est de bou té; té,
eu est se de bou té; té,

1) Contratenor, b. 6.1, g (error).

33

heu - - - - reux n'est se de ray en cest' ne_hon -
heu - - - - reux n'est se de ray en
heu - - reux n'est se - ray de en per -

41

es - - - té, se puis ve - nir a droit
no - - - ré; n'es - se pas donc
cest' es - - - té, se puis ve - nir
ne_hon no - - - ré; n'es - se pas donc
cest' son es - - - té, se n'es - se pas ve - nir
ne_hon no - - - ré; donc

49

mon em - - pri - - - - - - se.
que je vi - - - - - - se?
a droit mon em - - pri - - - - - - se.
que je vi - - - - - - se?
a droit mon em - - pri - - - - - - se.
je vi - - - - - - se?

2) *Superius*, text 1, bars 33-37 have the text "heureux seray".

3) *Contratenor*, b. 52 is missing; inserted in accordance with the MSS Dijon, Nivelle and Wolfenbüttel.

Nivelle no. 58

Paris, Bibliothèque nationale, Rés. Vmc. ms. 57, Chansonnier Nivelle de la Chaussée, ff. 71v-72

[Superius] Mensura = \bullet

1. 4. J'ay pris a - mours a que ma c'est
3. II me sem - ble

1. 4. J'ay pris a - mours a que
3. II me sem - ble

1. 4. J'ay pris a - mours a que
3. II me sem - ble

8

de la vi - se, ma c'est de la vi - se, ma c'est de la vi - se,

ma c'est de la vi - se, ma c'est de la vi - se, ma c'est de la vi - se,

ma c'est de la vi - se, ma c'est de la vi - se, ma c'est de la vi - se,

15

pour qui con n'a que rir rien,
pour qui con n'a que rir rien, joi il

pour qui con n'a que rir rien, joi il

24

joi il eu est de se bou té; té,
joi il eu est de se bou té; té,

eu est de se bou té; té,

33

eu - reux se - ray en cest'
et n'est de per son ne_ho -

eu - reux se - ray en
et n'est de per son -

eu - reux se - ray en
et n'est de per -

41

es - té, se puis ve - nir 1)a que
no - ré; n'es - se point droit que

cest' es - té, se puis ve - nir
ne_ho no - ré; n'es - se point droit

cest' es - té, se puis
son ne_ho no - ré; n'es - se

49

mon je em - pri - - - - - se.
que mon je em y pri vi - - - - - se?
ve point - nir droit a que mon je em y pri vi - - - - - se.
que mon je em y pri vi - - - - - se?

1) *Superius*, text 1, bars 48.2 ff have the text "a mon a emprise" (error).

1

2a. S'il est au - cun qu'il me
2b. J'ay pris a - mours a ma

2a. S'il est au - cun quill a
2b. J'ay pris a - mours a

2a. S'il est au - cun quill a
2b. J'ay pris a - mours a

8

des de pri - se, se
me ma des de pri - se, se
me ma des de pri - se, se

15

il pour me con que doit rir
il pour me con que doit rir
il pour me con que doit rir es joi

24

es joi - tre par don né. té.
es joi - tre par don né. té.

Wolfenbüttel no. 29

Wolfenbüttel, Herzog August Bibliothek, Codex Guelf. 287 Extravag. ff. 37^v-38

J'ay prins amours a ma devise [Anonymous]

1) *Contra*, bars 31-32, the ligature is oblique, ending with a *brevis* (probably an error); the scribe then added a single *brevis* to make up the *longa*-value.

Wolfenbüttel no. 29, p. 2

33

1) heu
et reux
n'est se de ray
per son cest'
ne hon

2) heu
et reux
n'est se de ray
per son -

heu reux se ray
et n'est de de en per -

41

es no té,
no ré; se puis ve - nir a que

cest' es té,
ne hon no ré; se puis ve - nir pas droit

cest' son es ne hon no té,
son ré; se n'es puis

49

mon je_y em ad prin vi se.
a que mon ad se?

ve - nir a mon em ad prin vi se.
pas droit que mon ad se?

1) *Superius*, text 1, bars 33-37 have the text "heureux seray".

2) Tenor, bar 34.2 d (error).

Wolfenbüttel no. 29, p. 3

2a. S'il est aul - cun qui a m'en
2b. J'ay prins a - mours a ma

2a. S'il est aul - cun qui a
2b. J'ay prins a - mours a

2a. S'il est aul - cun qui a
2b. J'ay prins a - mours a

8

de - - - pri - - - se,
de - - - vi - - - se,

m'en de - - - pri - - - se,
ma de - - - vi - - - se,

m'en de - pri - - - se,
ma de - vi - - - se,

15

il pour me con - que doit rir

il pour me con - que doit rir

il pour me con - que doit rir es joy

24

es - tre par - - - don - - - né.
joy - eu - - - se - - - té.

es - tre par - - - don - - - né.
joy - eu - - - se - - - té.

tre eu - - - par - - - don - - - né.
- - - - - - - - - - - - té.

Paris 4379 (Sevilla 5-1-43) no. 66

Paris, Bibliothèque Nationale, ms. nouv. acq. fr. 4379, ff. 27v-28

J'ay pris amours en ma devise [Anonymous]

[Superius] Mensura = ♩

T[enor]

Contra

8

15

25

1.4. J'ay pris a-mours en que ma c'est
3. II me sam - ble

1.4. J'ay pris a-mours en que
3. II me sam - ble

1.4. J'ay pris a - - - mours ble en que
3. II me sam - - - - - ble

de la vi-gui - - - se,
ma c'est de la vi-gui - - - se,
ma c'est de la vi-gui - - - se,

pour qui con n'a que rir riens, joi il
pour qui con n'a que rir riens,
pour qui con n'a que rir riens,

eu est se de bou té;
rir il est eu de se bou té;
rir il joi est eu de se bou té;

Paris 4379 (Sevilla 5-1-43) no. 66, p. 2

33

heu - reux
et n'est se - ray en cest'
de per son ne_hon -
heu - reux n'est se - ray en
et de per son -
heu - reux n'est se -
et de

41

es - nou té, s'ad - ve - nir puis a
- - - ré; n'es - se pas droit dont
- - - ré; n'es - se pas droit
- - - ré; n'es - se -
ray en cest' es té, s'ad - ve -
per son - ne_hon nou ré; n'es - se -

49

mon que em - pri - - - - se.
g'y vi - - - - se?
a dont mon em - - - - pri - - se.
que g'y - - - - vi - - se?
nir puis a mon em - - - - pri - - se.
pas droit que g'y - - - - vi - - se?

