

Anonymous

S'il vous plaist bien que je vous tiengne a 3

Edition and comments by
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<http://chansonniers.pwch.dk/CH/CH113.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) https://data.idemdatabase.org/IE9381778/representation?fl_pid=FL9382190
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

Text sources

Paris 1719	Paris, Bibliothèque Nationale, ms. f.fr. 1719
Paris 1722	Paris, Bibliothèque Nationale, ms. f.fr. 1722

S'il vous plaist bien que je vous tiengne 3v · Anonymous

Appearance in the group of related chansonniers:

*Dijon ff. 119v-121 »S'il vous plaist que je vous tiegne« 3v

*Nivelle ff. 13v-15 »S'il vous plaist bien que je vous tiengne« 3v

Text: Bergerette; full text in both sources; also found in Paris 1719 f. 90, Paris 1722 f. 42v.
After Nivelle:

S'il vous plaist bien que je vous tiengne 1)
pour ma maistresse a tousjours mais
maintenant est temps ou jamais
que de mon mal pitie vous prengne.

Car que je sceusse vivre ainsi 2)
veu de mon mal l'ennuy terrible,
ma dame, sans voustre mercy,
par ma foy, il est impossible.

Ja besoing n'est que j'entreprengne 3)
qu'autre que vous m'ouste ce fays,
car si jamais j'ay bien ne paix
de vous seulle fault qu'il me viengne.

S'il vous plaist bien *que je vous tiengne*
pour ma maistresse a tousjours mais
maintenant est temps ou jamais
que de mon mal pitie vous prengne.

If it pleases you that I regard you
as my mistress forever, then
the moment is now or never
when you take pity on my distress.

Though I could live in this way
given the terrible hurt of my distress,
my lady, without your mercy,
by my faith, it is impossible.

There is no need that I go on,
if you do not relieve me of this burden,
for if I never enjoy happiness and peace
from you alone, it must be so for me.

If it pleases you that I regard you
as my mistress forever, then
the moment is now or never
when you take pity on my distress.

- 1) Dijon, line 2, "S'il vous plaist que je ..." (error)
- 2) Dijon, line 5, "Car que je sceusses vivre ..."
- 3) Dijon, line 9, "Ja n'est besoing n'est que j'emtepreigne" (error)

Evaluation of the sources:

The main scribes of the two chansonniers have copied this anonymous bergerette with the use of the same exemplar or very similar exemplars. There are very few differences in ligatures and coloration and a couple of instances where Dijon has more decorative notes than Nivelle (S bb. 24 and 50), otherwise the most significant difference occurs in the contratenor in the second ending to the couplets. Here, an awkward passage appears in Dijon bars 63-64, especially the note *e* against *g-bb'* is unfortunate. Nivelle has a better reading of this passage, maybe an editorial intervention. The sound of parallel fifths in Dijon in bar 63 may be caused by a simple writing error, a displacement of the *punctus* belonging to the ligature, but the dissonances in the next bar may well have been in the Dijon scribe's exemplar. This seems credible since both sources agree on an equally unfortunate passage in bars 41-42, where parallel seconds occur between the superius and the countertenor. These bars would be quite easy to improve with something similar to ex. 1.

Ex. 1. A hypothetical revision of bars 41-43

The musical score consists of three staves, each with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat. The top staff begins with a half note followed by a quarter note, then a dotted half note. The middle staff begins with a half note followed by a dotted half note. The bottom staff begins with a half note followed by a dotted half note.

The two sections of the bergerette are both in double time, the first in *tempus imperfectum* and the second is diminished. It is the same rhythmic relationship that we meet in well-known bergerettes as »Ma bouche rit et ma pensee pleure« by Ockeghem or »Ja que lui ne s'i actende« by Busnoys.¹ In performance, a strict doubling of the tempo was probably not intended, the meaning was rather that the beat changes from the *semibrevis* to the *brevis*, with the *breves* performed a bit slower than the *semibreves* in the preceding section. In this way the rhythmic relation between the refrain/tierce and the couplets becomes quite similar to the 4:3 relationships we find in most bergerettes in *tempus perfectum* with couplets in *imperfectum minutum*.²

Comments on text and music:

This plea for a gracious answer from the woman adored, a bergerette in rich rimes, is set to music for three voices in quite common ranges, a wide-ranging upper voice placed between *g* and *c''*, a tenor *e-a'* and a contratenor in a slightly lower range, *d-f'*, which occasionally crosses above the tenor. The setting is enlivened by canonic imitation at the octave between the upper voices in the third and fourth lines of the refrain and in the couplets' second line. The imitation motifs are very simple and all are kept within the F-hexachord. The song's best moment comes at its beginning, whose homorhythmic declamation does not reveal the song's double mensuration but in a smooth flow presents the full range of the voices in the cadence-less first line. Hereafter the refrain's music becomes a bit square and plods along until the phrase leading to the final cadence. What disturbs the impression of the song is in particular the restricted ranges of the upper voices in bars 16 ff – boring because of sheer incompetence in contrapuntal writing –, that the composer seemingly found it difficult to design a contratenor below the tenor while avoiding parallels, and finally the dissonances caused by the short note values at several points.

In his article 'Conflicting Attributions and Anonymous Chansons in the 'Busnoys' Sources of the Fifteenth Century', Leeman L. Perkins discussed this song as a possible

1 Cf. <http://chansonniers.pwch.dk/CH/CH038.html> and <http://chansonniers.pwch.dk/CH/CH032.html>.

2 See further on diminution of *tempus imperfectum* in my introduction to *Johannes Ockeghem, Missa Quinti toni. Edited with an introduction by Peter Woetmann Christoffersen*, June 2021, pp. xxi-xxiii. (http://www.sacred.pwch.dk/Ma_Ock01.pdf).

composition by Antoine Busnoys.³ Here he enumerated all the features that can be favourably compared to the characteristics found in Busnoys' songs, while the anonymous composer's shaky competence is not taken into account. A comparison with the two bergerettes by Busnoys and Ockeghem mentioned above does not turn out in this song's favour.

³ In Paula Higgins (ed.), *Antoine Busnoys. Method, Meaning, and Context in Late Medieval Music*. Oxford 1999, pp. 317-358, at pp. 334-340.

Dijon no. 99

S'il vous plaist bien que je vous tiengne [Anonymous]

Dijon, Bibliothèque Municipale, MS 517, ff. 119v-121

[Superius] Mensura = $\frac{1}{8}$

1.4. S'il vous plaist ¹⁾bien que je vous tie -
3. Ja ²⁾ be - soing n'est que j'em - tre - prei -

1.4. S'il vous plaist bien que je vous tie - gne
3. Ja be - soing n'est que j'em - tre - prei - gne

1.4. S'il vous plaist bien que je vous tie -
3. Ja be - soing n'est que je vous tie -

gne pour ma mais - tres - se_a tous - jours
gne qu'aul - tre que vous m'os - te ce

pour ma mais - tres - se_a tous - jours
qu'aul - tre que m'os - ce

gne pour ma mais - tres - se_a tous - jours
gne qu'aul - tre que m'os - ce

mais mainc - te - nant est temps ou ja -
fais, car si ja mais j'ay bien ne

mais mainc - te - nant est temps ou ja -
fais, car si ja mais j'ay bien ne

mais mainc - te - nant est temps ou ja -
fais, car si ja mais j'ay bien ne

mais que de de vous mon seu - mal pi fault
pais de vous seu - le pi fault

mais que de de vous mon seu - mal pi fault
pais de vous seu - le pi fault

mais que de de vous mon seu - mal pi fault
pais de vous seu - le pi fault

1) *Superius*, text 1, bar 3.2, the word "bien" is missing (error).2) *Superius*, text 3, bars 1-3, "Ja n'est besoing n'est que" (error).

29

tie qu'il vous me pren vie - gne. gne.
tie qu'il vous me pren vie - gne. gne.
tie qu'il vous me pren vie - gne. gne.

35 Mensura = o

2a. Car que je sceus - ses vi - vre_ain - si veu
2b. ma da - me, sans vos - tre mer cy, par
2a. Car que je sceus - ses vos - tre vi - vre_ain - si veu
2b. ma da - me, sans vos - tre mer cy, par de
2a. Car que je sceus - ses vi - vre_ain - si veu
2b. ma da - me, sans vos - tre mer cy, par de ma

45

de mon mal l'a - nuy ter - ri - ble,
ma foy, il est im - pos - si - ble,
nuy ter - ri - ble, im - pos - si - ble,
mon mal l'a - nuy ter - ri - ble, foy, il est im - pos - si - ble,

61

2. ble. ble. ble.

Nivelle no. 10

Paris, Bibliothèque nationale, Rés. Vmc. ms. 57,
Chansonnier Nivelle de la Chaussée, ff. 13^v-15

S'il vous plaist bien que je vous tiengne [Anonymous]

[Superius] Mensura = d

1.4. S'il vous plaist bien que je vous tien -
3. Ja be - soing n'est que que je vous tien - gne
j'en - tre - pren

1.4. S'il vous plaist bien que que je vous tien - gne
3. Ja be - soing n'est que que j'en - tre - pren - gne

1.4. S'il vous plaist bien que que je vous tien -
3. Ja be - soing n'est que que je vous tien -
j'en - tre - pren

8

gne pour ma mais - tres - se_a tous - jours
gne qu'aul - tre que vous m'ous - te ce

pour qu'aul - ma mais - tres - se_a tous - jours
gne pour qu'aul - tre que vous m'ous - se_a tous - jours

16

mais fays, main - te - nant est temps ou ja -
car si ja mais j'ay bien ne

mais fays, main - te - nant est temps ou bien ja -
car si ja mais j'ay bien ne

mais fays, main - te - nant est temps ou bien ja -
car si ja mais j'ay bien ne

23

mais paix que de de mon mal pi fault -
vous seul - le

mais paix que de de mon mal pi fault -
vous seul - le

mais paix que de de mon mal pi fault -
vous seul - le

29

tie
qu'il vous me pren - - - - gne.
tie
qu'il vous me pren - - - - gne.
tie
qu'il vous me pren - - - - gne.
gne.

35 Mensura = o

2a. Car que je sceus - se vi - vre_ain - si
2b. ma da - me, sans vous - tre mer - cy,
veu par
2a. Car que je sceus - se vous - tre vi - vre_ain - si
2b. ma da - me, sans vous - tre mer - cy,
veu par de mon mal l'en -
de mon mal l'en - nuy ter - ri - ble,
ma foy, il est im - pos - si - ble,
nuy ter - ri - ble,
im - pos - si - ble,
mon mal l'en - nuy im ter pos - ri - ble,
foy, il est im ter pos - si - ble,

61 2. ble.
ble.
ble.