Johannes Ockeghem

Les desleaulx ont la saison a 3

Edition and comments by
Peter Woetmann Christoffersen

April 2012, revised April 2017

http://chansonniers.pwch.dk/CH/CH042.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' chamsonniers

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://diglib.hab.de/wdb.php?dir=mss/287-extrav

Text sources

Berlin 78.B.17	Berlin, Staatsliche Museen der Stiftung Preußischer Kulturbesitz, Kupferstichkabinett, Ms. 78.B.17 (Chansonnier Rohan)
Paris 1719	Paris, Bibliothèque Nationale, ms. f.fr. 1719
Jardin 1501	*Le Jardin de plaisance et fleur de rethoricque*, Paris, [Antoine Verard, 1501]

Literature

Löpelmann 1923	M. Löpelmann (ed.), *Die Liederhandschrift des Cardinals de Rohan* (Gesellschaft für romanische Litteratur, Band 44) Göttingen 1923

Les desleaulx ont la saison 3v · Johannes Ockeghem

Appearance in the group of related chansonniers:

*Dijon ff. 12v-13 »Les desleaulx ont la saison« 3v Okeghem
*Laborde ff. 105v-106 »Les desloyaulx ont la saison« 3v
*Leuven ff. 13v-14 »Les desloyaulx ont la saison« 3v

Text: Rondeau quatrain, full text in Dijon, Leuven and Laborde (with a different *tierce*); also in Berlin 78.B.17 f. 79, ed.: Löpelmann 1923, p. 112; Paris 1719 ff. 61v and 132-132v (as Laborde); Jardin 1501 f. 114-114v.

After Dijon:

Les desleaulx ont la saison et des bons nessun ne tient compte, (1) mais Bon Droit de trop se mesconte de souffrir si grant desraison.	The disloyal are in season and no one takes account of the good, but Fair Justice has miscalculated overly by suffering such great unreason.
Je ne sçais par quelque achoison (2) Fortune ainsi hault les seurmonte; (3)	I do not known for what reason Fortune raises them so high;
les desleaux *ont la saison* *et des bons nessun ne tient compte.*	the disloyal are in season and no one takes account of the good.
Nul ne doit parler sans moison de paour d'avoir reprouche ou honte; pour ce me tais, mais fin de compte tout va sans rime et sans raison.	No one should talk without measure for fear of getting reproach or shame; therefore I keep silent, but at the final count all goes without rhyme or reason.
Les desleaux *ont la saison* *et des bons nessun ne tient compte,* *mais Bon Droit de trop se mesconte* *de souffrir si grant desraison.*	The disloyal are in season and no one takes account of the good, but Fair Justice has miscalculated overly by suffering such great unreason.

Lines 9-12 in Laborde:

De nommer prince ne maison ce me seroit reprouche et hont pourtant m'en tais, mais fin de compte tout va sans rime et sans raison.	To name/talk about a prince or noble house, this would to me be blame and a shame; therefore I keep silent about it, but at the final count all goes without rhyme or reason.

Lines 9-10 in Leuven:

Pour parler de prince ne maison
ce me seroit reprouche et honte;

1) line 2, Laborde: "… nully ne tient conte"
2) line 5, Laborde: "… quel achoison", Leuven "… quelle achoison"
3) line 6, Laborde and Leuven: "… les monte"

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Evaluation of the sources:

This song was copied into the Dijon chansonnier by the main scribe without any errors, and he added the name of the composer above the highest voice. In the Leuven chansonnier the song appears in a musically identical version. It was, however, copied after an exemplar slightly different from the one used by the Dijon scribe. Small differences appear in the notation, the clef in the contratenor and the use of coloration, and its version of the poem is quite similar to the one found in Laborde and in the poetry collection Paris, Bibliothèque Nationale, ms. f.fr. 1719.

Ockeghem's rondeau was added to the Laborde chansonnier by a later hand, LabordeC, who was identical to the main scribe of the French musical MS Florence 2794.[1] The copying of this song belongs to his second session of work on the Laborde chansonnier, which also included another song by Ockeghem, no. 95 »J'en ay dueil que je ne suis morte« (ff. 120v-121)[2] – likewise anonymous in Laborde (his first session resulted in the three songs nos. 82-84).

The LabordeC/Florence scribe used an exemplar which was quite different from the one used by the Dijon scribe: The music differs in rhythm and figuration in the first line (S b. 2.2; T bb. 3-4; C bb. 2.2 and 4.2-5.1) and in several similar places. The text is more explicit in the *tierce*. While the Dijon version only takes exception to "talk without measure", Laborde and Leuven denounce "to name a prince or noble house" (see above).

Comments on text and music:

An angry song about fickle lovers, in which everything seems to be "without reason". It is set for an upper voice of exceptional restricted range (*a-a'*), keeping within an octave, and two much wider ranging voices (*c-f'*, *G-e'*). The tenor seems to have a stronger melodic profile than the superius with greater arches and clear presentation of the motives. This seems even more pronounced, because the restricted range of the upper voice is underscored by its persistent movement in thirds, back and forth over the same notes *e'-c', d'-f'* – in a sort of mumbling rage. The extended contratenor demonstratively starts and ends on the fifth and in a passage lies high above the tenor (bb. 6-13), but it also plays an important role in the ironic, patter-like delivery of the second line, "et de bons nessun ...", augmenting the number of motivic entries to four.

The song's many old-fashioned traits, the undiminished *tempus imperfectum*, the high contra, the cadences, and the *faulxbourdon*-like sound (bb. 11-13), may all be deceptive, a calculated interpretation of the poem's theme.

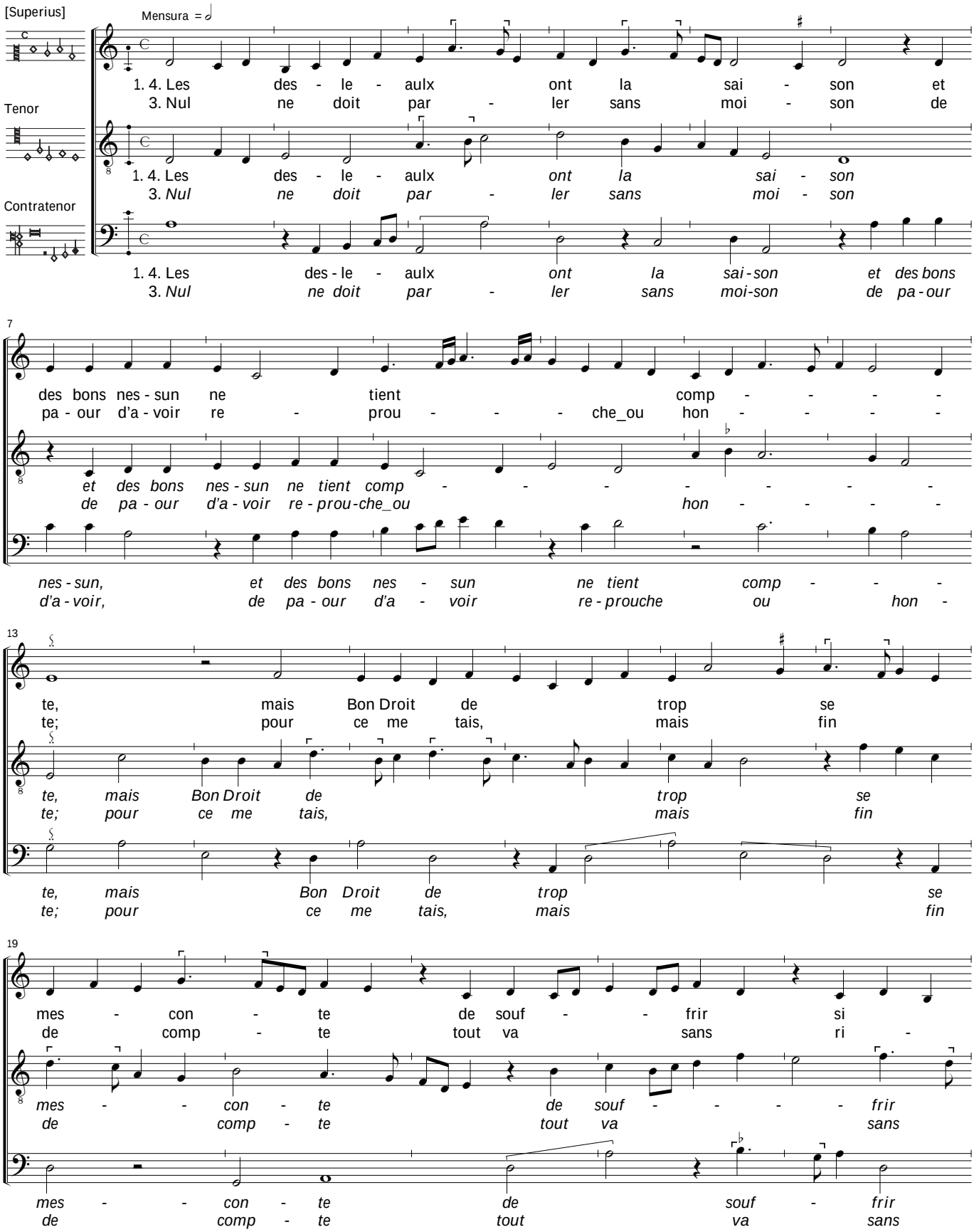
1 See further my article 'The French musical manuscript in Florence, Biblioteca Riccardiana, Ms. 2794, and the 'Loire Valley' chansonniers' (June 2012) at http://www.pwch.dk/Publications/PWCH_Florence2794.pdf.

2 Cf. http://chansonniers.pwch.dk/CH/CH227.html.

Dijon no. 8

Okeghem, *Les desleaulx ont la saison*

Dijon, Bibliothèque Municipale, MS 517, ff. 12v-13: Okeghem



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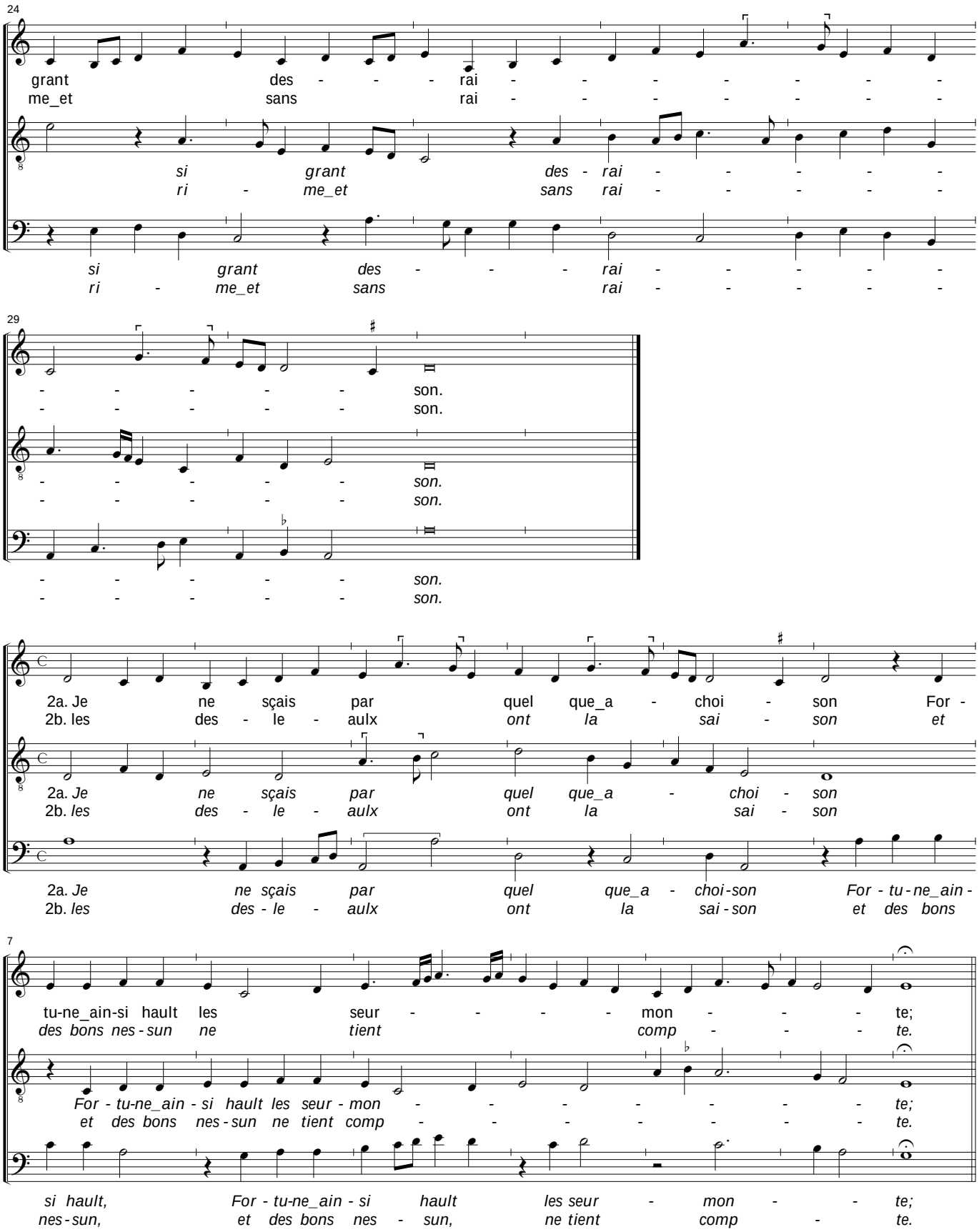

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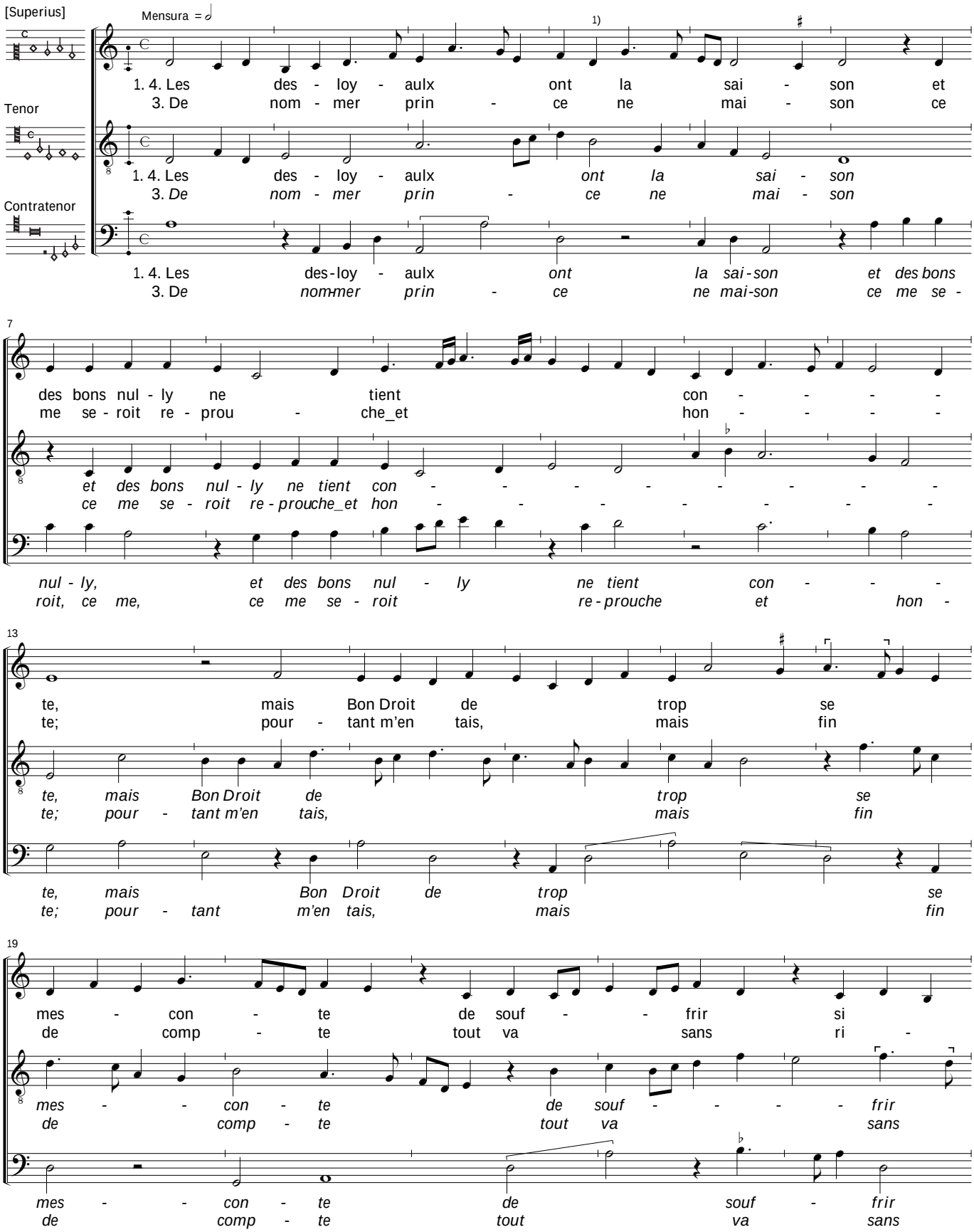
Laborde no. 86

Les desloyaulx ont la saison [Ockeghem]

Washington D.C., Library of Congress, MS M2.1 L25 Case, ff. 105^{v}-106



1) *Superius,* bar 4.1, *f'-e'* (error).

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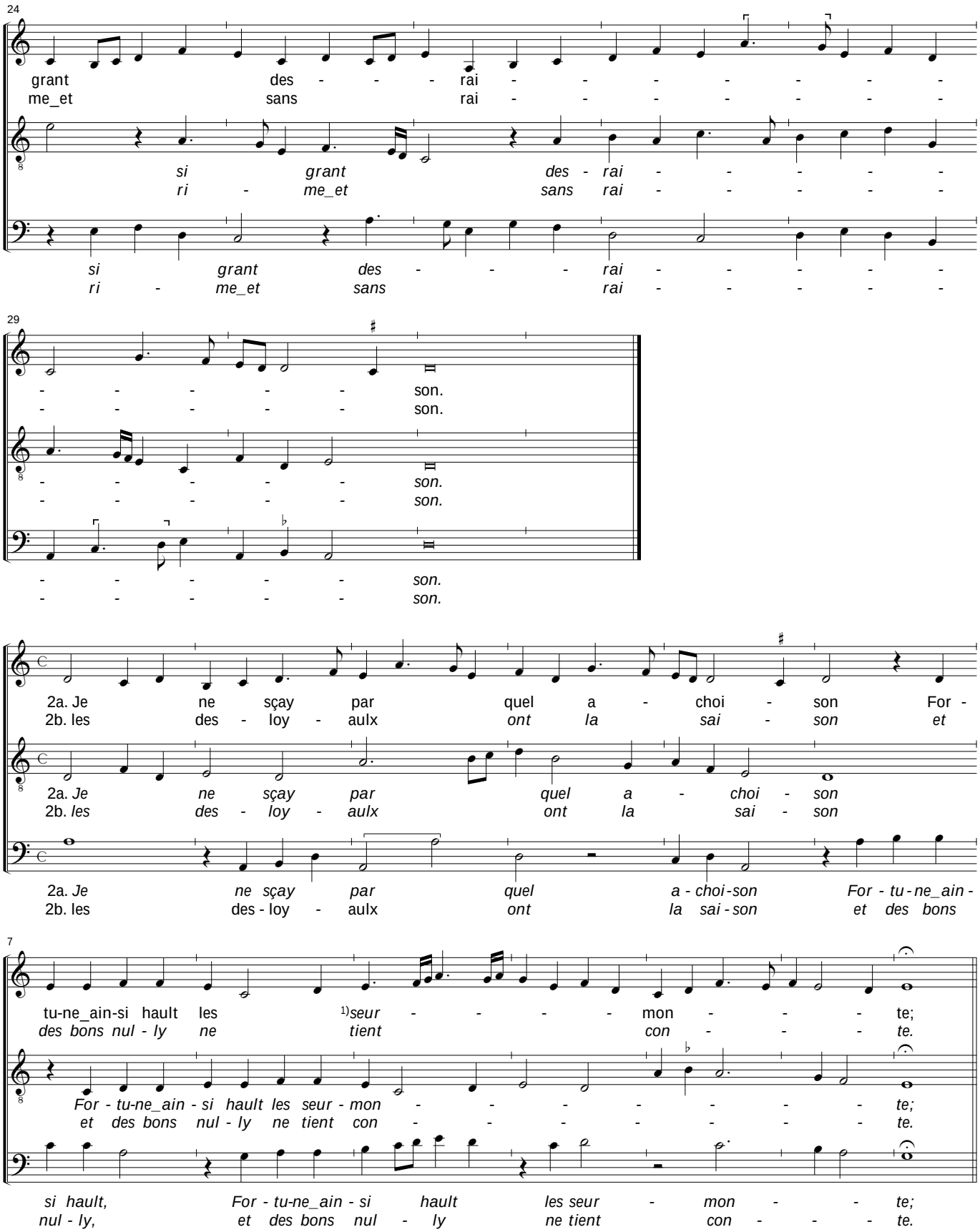

1) *Superius, text 2a,* bar 9, this line misses a syllable; "*seur*monte" added according to the version i Dijon ff. 12v-13 (error).

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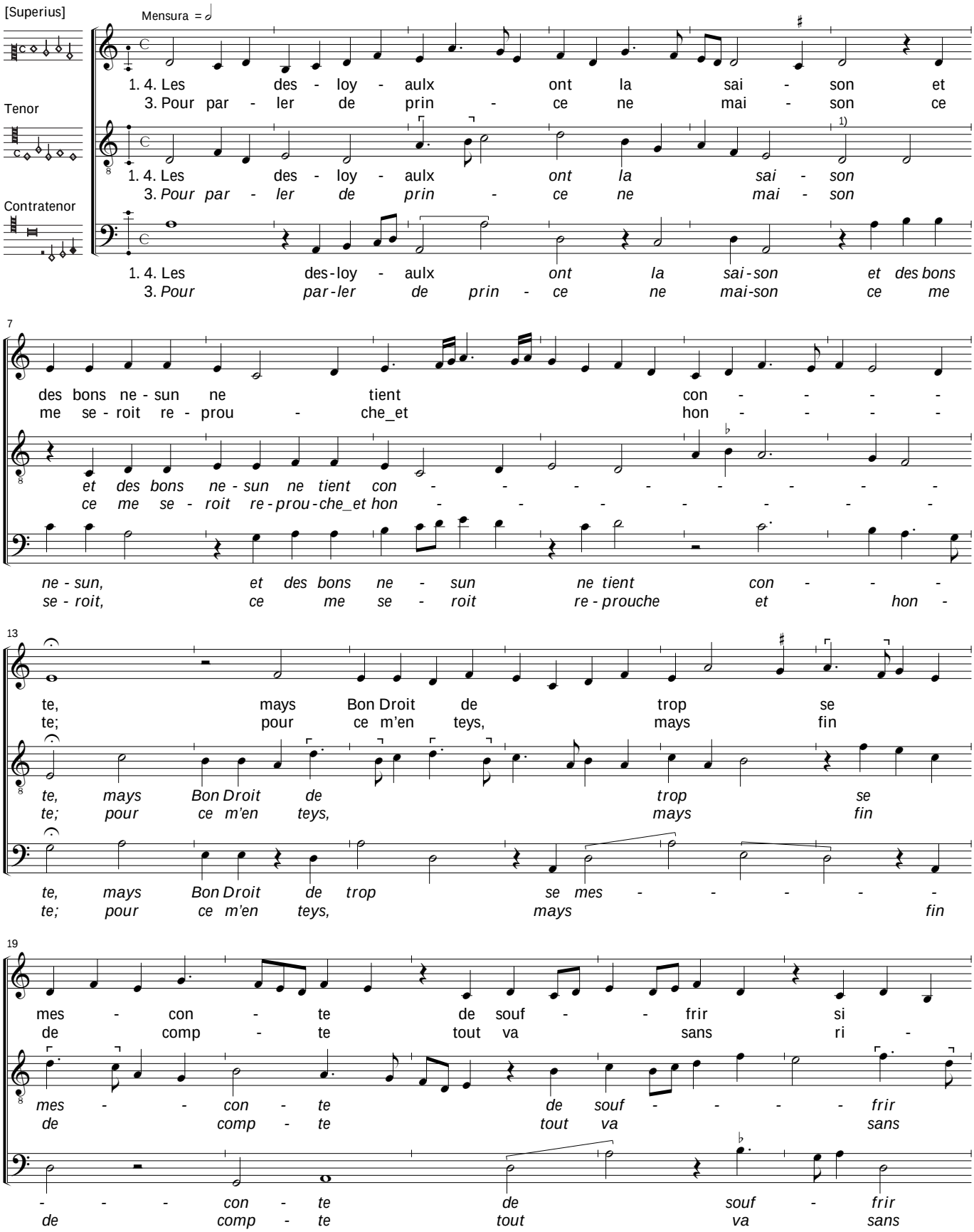
Leuven no. 9

Les desloyaulx ont la saison |Ockeghem]

Leuven, Alamire Foundation, Manuscript without shelf number, ff. 13^{v}-14



1) *Tenor,* bar 6, the two *semibreves* are probably results of a writing error; in stead of erasing the copyist has just filled out with an extra note.

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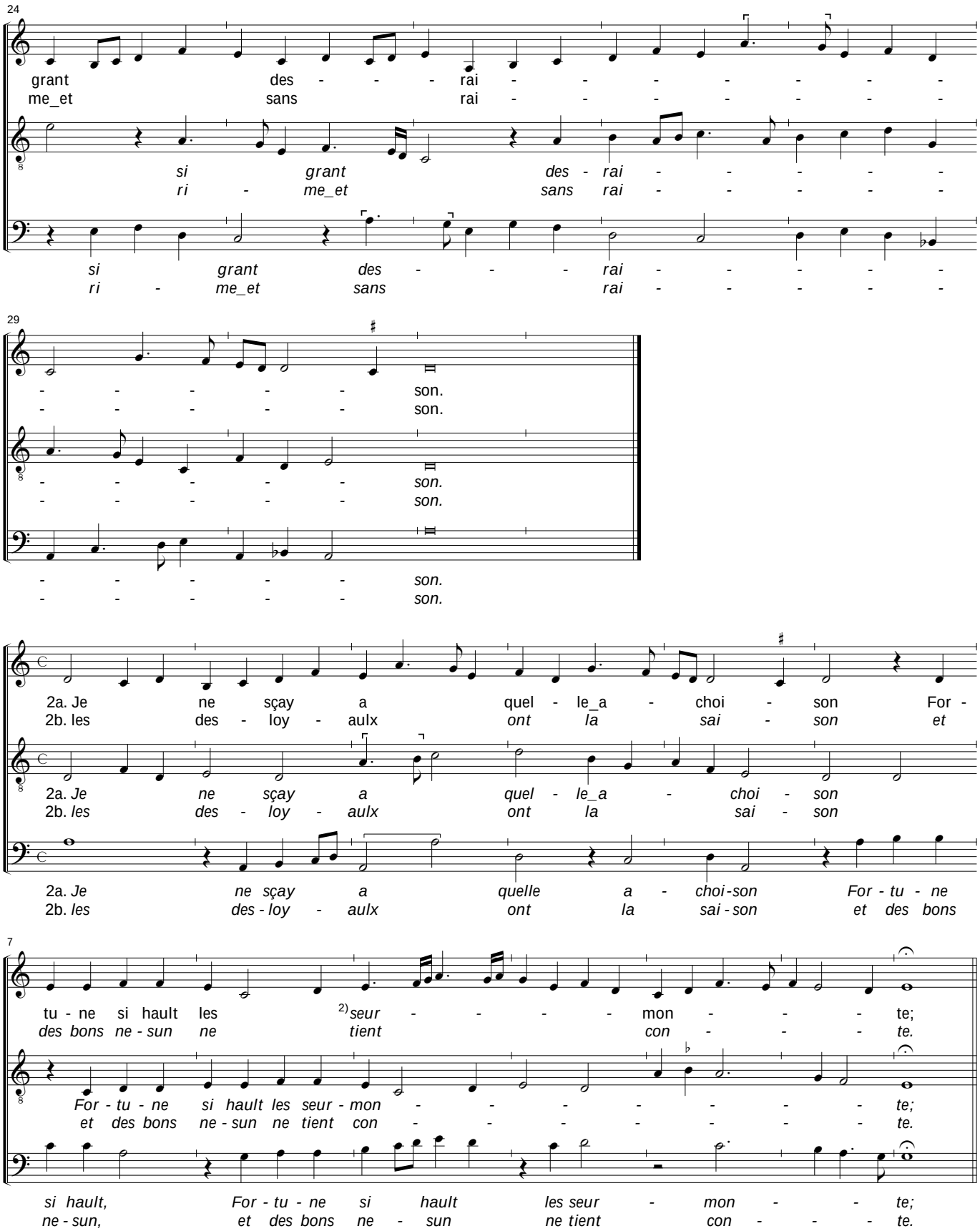

2) *Superius, text 2a,* bar 9.1, the missing sylleble “seur-” has been supplied from the Dijon chansonnier.

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