

TEXT PRONUNCIATION FOR *CARMINA BURANA*

Carl Orff's *Carmina Burana* uses text derived from a 13th century manuscript containing secular medieval Latin, old German (although *Carmina* also contains some modern Bavarian), and old French vocabulary (in some of the solo sections). Although no written instructions on pronunciation have survived from the choirs that first sang this work, a recording by Kurt Eichhorn in 1973 is believed to reflect authentic pronunciation (and in which Carl Orff was directly involved).

The following guide is based on Eichhorn's performance and provides a full, phonetic transcription of the complete work. The following, basic rules should help too:

Ecclesiastical vs Secular Latin

We are probably all used to singing ecclesiastical Latin (where accepted usage reflects the Italianate pronunciation of consonants). For *Carmina*, we are adopting the secular Latin vocabulary and (in an attempt to be really authentic) Germanic pronunciation.

General Rules

| | |
|---|--|
| e | The long <i>e</i> vowel is the most crucial. This vowel should be pronounced in a similar way to the French <i>é</i> , (pronounced as the <i>a</i> in "lane") and will be represented in this guide by <i>é</i> . All other <i>e</i> vowels will be pronounced as the <i>e</i> in "best". |
| i | There is more variation on the length of the <i>i</i> vowel in secular Latin than in ecclesiastical Latin (where every <i>i</i> is long). Where the vowel is long, it will be represented as <i>ee</i> (pronounced as the <i>ee</i> in "see"). Where short, it will be represented as <i>i</i> (pronounced as the <i>i</i> in "in"). |
| qu | In Germanic, secular Latin, <i>qu</i> is pronounced <i>kv</i> (for example, <i>qui</i> is pronounced <i>kvee</i> and <i>equitavit</i> is pronounced <i>é-kvi-ta-vit</i>) |
| sc | Is pronounced <i>ss</i> (for example, <i>decrecis</i> is pronounced <i>de-cres-sis</i> and <i>lascivit</i> is pronounced <i>la-see-vit</i>) |
| c followed by e or i | Is pronounced <i>tse-</i> or <i>tsi-</i> (for example, <i>aciem</i> is pronounced <i>a-tsi-em</i> and <i>cedant</i> is pronounced <i>tsé-dant</i>) |
| gi or ge | Is "hard" and pronounced <i>gg-</i> (for example, <i>fugit</i> is pronounced <i>fu-ggit</i> and <i>virgines</i> is pronounced <i>veer-ggi-nes</i>) |
| Initial h | Is aspirated (for example <i>herus</i> is pronounced <i>hé-rus</i> and <i>Hyrca</i> is pronounced <i>Heer-ka</i>) |

I hope you find this helpful. Each and every one of you owes me a drink!

Cathy Waring
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1. O Fortuna

O Fortuna, velut Luna statu variabilis,
O For-too-na, vélut Loo-na stah-tu var-ee-a-bee-lees

semper crescis aut decrescis; vita detestabilis
sem-peh crest-sees ot de-crest-sees; vee-ta dee-tee-stah-bee-lees

nunc obdurat et tunc curat ludo mentis aciem;
noonk ob-doo-rat et toonk kew-rat loo-doo men-tees a-tsi-em

egestatem, potestatem, dissolvit ut glaciem.
é-gges-ta-tem, po-tes-ta-tem, diss-solv-it oot gla-tsi-em

Sors immanis et inanis, rota tu volubilis,
sors i-man-is et in-ah-nis, roo-ta tu vo-loo-bee-lees

status malus, vana salus semper dissolubilis;
stah-tus mah-lus, vah-nah sah-lus, sem-peh dis-sol-oo-bee-lees

obumbrata et velata mihi quoque niteris;
ob-um-bra-ta et vee-lah-tah mee-hee kvo-kvé nee-teh-rees

nunc per ludum dorsum nudum fero tui sceleris.
noonk peh loo-doom dor-soom noo-doom feh-ro too-ee sé-leh-rees.

Sors salutis et virtutis mihi nunc contraria;
sors sa-loo-tees et veer-too-tees mee-hee noonk con-trah-ree-ah

est affectus et defectus semper in angaria.
est ah-fect-oos et deh-fect-us sem-peh in an-gah-ree-ah

hac in hora sine mora cordae pulsum tangite!
hak in hoh-ra sin-eh mo-rah cor-day pull-sum tan-ggi-té

quod per sortem sternit fortem, mecum omnes plangite
kvod per sor-tem steh-nit for-tem, may-cum om-nes plan-ggi-té

2. Fortune Plango Vulnera

Fortune plango vulnera stillantibus ocellis
For-toon-eh plan-go vool-neh-ra still-an-tee-bus o-tsel-lees

quod sua michi munera subtrahit rebellis.
kvod soo-ah mi-hi moon-eh-ra soob-tra-heet reh-bell-ees

Verum est, quod legitur, fronte capillata,
vé-room est kvod lé-ggi-tur, fron-tey cah-pill-ah-tah

sed plerumque sequitur Occasio calvata.
sed plé-rum-kvé sé-kvi-tur or-car-sio cal-vah-tah

In Fortune solio sederam elatus,
in for-toon-eh soh-li-oh see-deh-rahm eh-lah-toos

prosperitatis vario flore coronatus;
pros-peh-ree-tah-tis vah-ree-oh flor-ey cor-oh-nah-toos

quicquid enim florui felix et beatus,
kvik-kvid é-neem floh-roo-ee fé-leeks et be-ah-toos

nunc a summo corruui gloria privatus.
noonk ah su-mo coh-roo-ee gloh-ree-ah pree-vah-toos

Fortune rota volvitur: descendo minoratus;
for-toon-eh roh-tah vol-vee-tur dee-sen-do min-o-rah-toos

alter in altum tollitur; nimis exaltatus
ahl-teh in al-tum toh-lee-tur; nee-mees ex-al-tah-toos

rex sedet in vertice caveat ruinam!
rex sé-det in ver-ti-tse cah-vee-aht roo-ee-nam

nam sub axe legimus Hecubam reginam.
nam soob ah-tsé lé-ggi-moos Hé-cu-bam ré-ggee-nam

3. Veris Leta Facies

Veris leta facies mundo propinatur,
Vé-ris lee-tah fah-tsi-es moon-doh pro-pi-nah-toor

hiemalis acies victa iam fugatur,
hee-ay-mah-lis a-tsi-es veek-tah yahm foo-gah-toor

in vestitu vario Phebus principatur,
in veh-stee-tu vah-rio Fé-bus prin-see-pah-toor

nemorum dulcisono que cantu celebratur.
né-mor-um dul-tsee-so-no kvé can-too sé-lé-bra-toor

Flore fusus gremio Phebus novo more
Flo-ré foo-soos gré-mio Fé-bus no-vo mo-ree

risum dat, hac vario iam stipate flore.
ree-sum daht, hahc vah-rio yahm sti-pah-tah flo-ré

Zephyrus nectareo spirans in odore.
Zee-feer-us nec-tah-ree-o speer-ahns in o-door-ee

Certatim pro bravio curramus in amore.
Tser-ta-tim pro bra-vee-o coo-rah-mus in ah-mor-é

Cytharizat cantico dulcis Philomena,
Tsee-ta-ree-tzat can-tee-co dul-tsees Phil-o-me-nah

flore rident vario prata iam serena,
flo-ré ree-dent vah-ree-oh prah-tah yahm ser-e-na

salit cetus avium silve per amena,
sah-leet tsé-tus ah-vee-um sil-veh per ah-me-na

chorus promit virginum iam gaudia millena
cor-us pro-mit veer-ggi-num yahm gow-ee-ah mil-le-na

5. Ecce Gratum

Ecce gratum et optatum ver reducit gaudia:

Eh-tsé gra-tum et op-ta-tum ver re-du-tsit gow-dee-ah

purpuratum floret pratum, sol serenat omnia.

pur-pur-rah-tum flor-eh-t pra-tum, sol se-ré-nat om-nee-ah

iam iam cedant tristia! estas redit nunc recedit, Hyemis sevitia.

yahm yahm tsé-dant trys-tia! É-stas re-dit noonk re-tsé-dit, Hee-eh-mees se-vee-tsi-a

lam liquescit et decrescit grando, nix et cetera;

Yahm li-kvé-seet et dee-cres-seet gran-do neeks et tsé-te-ra

bruma fugit, et iam sugit Ver Es tatis ubera.

bru-mah fu-ggit, et yahm su-ggeet vé-res tah-tees u-beh-ra

illi mens est misera, qui nec vivit nec lascivit sub estatis dextera!

i-li mens ést mis-é-ra, kvee nec vee-vit nec la-see-vit sub eh-stah-tis dex-teh-ra!

Gloriantur et letantur in melle dulcedinis,

Glo-ri-an-tur et ley-tan-tur in mé-lé dul-tsé-di-nees

qui conantur, ut utantur premio Cupidinis.

kvee con-an-toor, ut oo-tan-toor prey-mi-o Ku-pee-di-nees

simus iussu Cypridis gloriantes et letantes pares esse Paridis!

zee-mus you-su Tsee-pri-dees glor-ee-ant-ees et lé-tan-tees par-es essé Par-ee-dees!

(AAAAGGGGGGHHHHH!!!)

7. Floret Silva

Floret silva nobilis

flor-eh-t sil-vah no-bee-lis

Floribus et foliis.

Flor-ee-bus eht fo-li-ees

Ubi est antiques meus amicus?

oo-bee est an-tee-kvus mee-us a-mee-cus?

hinc equitavit,

hink é-kvi-ta-vit

eia, quis me amabit?

eh-ya, kvees mé a-ma-bit?

Floret silva undique,

flor-eh-t sil-vah un-di-kvé

nah mime ge-sel-len, ist mir wê.

nach meem ge-zel-len, ist mir vé. (*barely audible "ch" as in "Bach")*

Gru-o-net der walt al-lent-hal-ben, wâ ist min ge-sel-le al-se lan-ge?

Gru-o-nét der valt al-lent-hal-ben, va ist meen ge-zehl-le al-seh lung-e?

der ist ge-ri-ten hin-nen,

deer ist ge-ri-ten hin-nen,

o wî, wer soll mich min-nen.

oh vee, ver zoll mish min-nen. (*very soft, barely audible "sh" sound at end of word)*

8. Chramer, Gip Die Varwe Mir

Chramer, gip die var-ve mir, die min wen-gel roete,
Krah-mer, gip dee far-ve mir, dee min ven-gel rerr-ter,

da-mit ich die jun-gen man an ir dank der min-nen-lie-be noe-te.
da-mit ish dee yung-en man an eer dank der min-nen-lie-be nerr-te.

Seht mich an, jun-gen man! lat mich iu ge-val-len.
Zeht mish an, yung-en man! lat mish yu ge-fal-len.

Min-net, tu-gent-li-che man, min-nec-li-che frou-wen!
Min-net, tu-gent-lish-e man, min-nec-lish-e frau-en!

min-ne tuot iu hoch ge-muot un-de lat iuch in ho-hen e-ren schou-wen.
min-ne tote yu hoch ge-mote un-de lat yoosh in ho-hen eh-ren shau-en. (*barely audible "ch" as in "Bach")*

Seht mich an, jun-gen man! lat mich iu ge-val-len.
Zeht mish an, yung-en man! lat mish yu ge-fal-len.

Wol dir, Werlt, daz du bist al-so freu-den-ri-che!
Vol dir, velt, dass du bist al-zo freu-den-rish-er! (*very soft, "sh" sound)*

ich will dir sin un-der-tan durch din lie-be im-mer si-cher-li-che.
ish vill dir zin un-ter-tan dursh din lie-be im-mer-zish-er-lish-er. (*very soft, "sh" sound)*

Seht mich an, jun-gen man! lat mich iu ge-val-len.
Zeht mish an, yung-en man! lat mish yu ge-fal-len.

9. Swaz He gat Umbe

Swaz hie gat um-be das sint al-les me-ge-de
Zva tzee gat um-beh dass zint al-lez me-ge-de

die wel-lent an man, al-le di-sen su-mer gan! Sla!
dee vel-lent an man, al-le dee-zen zumm-er gan! Zlah!

Chume, Chum, Geselle Min

Chu-me, chum, ge-sel-le min, ih en-bi-te har-te din.
Koo-mé, koom, ge-zel-le min, eesh en-bee-te har-te din. (*barely audible "sh"sound)*

Su-zer ro-sen-var-wer munt, chum uñ ma-che mich ge-sunt.
Zu-tser ro-zen-far-ver munt, koom oon mach-e mish ge-zunt. (*barely audible "ch" as in "Bach")*

10. Were Diu Werlt Alle Min

Were diu werlt alle min von deme mere_unze_an den Rin,
Veh-re diu velt al-le meen fon dém meh-runts an dén Reen,

des wolt ih mih dar-ben,
des volt eesh meesh dar-ben,

daz diu chünegin von En-gel-lant, von En-gel-lant, le-ge an mi-nen ar-men.
dass diu kü-ne-gin fon Eng-el-lant, fon eng-el-lant, lé-gé an mee-nen ar-men.

Hei!!

Hey!

12 Olim Lacus Colueram

Miser modo niger et ustus fortier

Mee-seh mo-doh nee-gger et oo-stoos for-ti-er

13 Ego Sum Abbas

Wafna! Ha ha!

Vahf-na! Ha ha!

14 In Taberna Quando Sumus

In taberna quando sumus non curamus quid sit humus,
In tab-air-na qvan-do soo-moos non kur-arm-us kvid seet hu-mus

sed ad ludum properamus, cui semper insudamus.
Zed ad loo-dum pro-per-ahm-us, coo-ee sem-peh in-sood-ahm-us

Quid agatur in taberna ubi nummus est pincerna,
Kvid ah-gah-tur in tab-air-na oo-bi nu-mus est pin-ser-nah

hoc est opus ut queratur, si quid loquar, audiatur.
hock est oh-pus oot kve-rat-oor, zee kvid lo-kvar, ohd-ee-a-tur

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hock est oh-pus oot kve-rat-oor, zee kvid lo-kvar, ohd-ee-a-tur

Quidam ludunt, quidam bibunt, quidam indiscrete vivunt.
Kvi-dam lu-dunt, kvi-dam bee-bunt, kvi-dam in-dee-skre-tay vee-vunt.

Sed in ludo qui morantur, ex his quidam denudantur
Zed in lu-doh kvee mor-an-tur, ex hees kvee-dam den-oo-dan-tur

quidam ibi vestiuntur, quidam saccis induuntur.
kvi-dam ee-bee vest-yun-tur, kvi-dam sak-tsees in-doo-un-tur.

Ibi nullus timet mortem sed pro Baccho mittunt sortem:
ee-bee noo-loos tee-met mor-tem zed pro Ba-ko mee-tunt sor-tem

Ibi nullus timet mortem sed pro Baccho mittunt sortem:
ee-bee noo-loos tee-met mor-tem zed pro Ba-ko mee-tunt sor-tem

Primo pro nummata vini, ex hac bibunt libertini;
Pree-mo pro nu-mar-ta vee-nee, ex hahk bee-bunt lib-er-teen-ee;

semel bibunt pro captivis, post hec bibunt ter pro vivis,
zemel bee-bunt pro cap-tee-vees, pohst hek bee-bunt ter pro vee-vees

quater pro Christianis cunctis quinquies pro fidelibus defunctis,
kva-ter pro kree-stee-ahn-es koonk-tes kveen-kvees pro feed-el-ee-bus dé-foonk-tees,

sexies pro sororibus vanis, septies pro militibus silvanis.
sek-si-es pro sor-ori-bus fan-is, sep-tsi-es pro mee-leet-ee-bus zil-vah-nees.

Octies pro fratribus perversis, nonies pro monachis dispersis,
Ok-tsi-es pro frah-tree-bus pehr-ver-sees, noh-nee-es pro moh-nach-ees dis-peh-sees,

decies pro navigantibus undecies pro discordaniibus,
dé-tsi-es pro nav-ee-gant-ee-bus un-dé-tsi-es pro dees-cor-dan-ee-bus,

duodecies pro penitentibus, tredecies pro iter agentibus.
duo-dé-tsi-es pro pen-ee-tent-ee-bus, tray-dé-tsi-es pro ee-ter ah-gent-ee-bus.

Tam pro papa quam pro rege bibunt omnes sine lege.

Tam pro pa-pa kwam pro ré-gge bee-bunt om-nes sin-eh leh-ge.

Bibit hera, bibit herus, bibit miles, bibit clerus,

Bee-beet hera, bee-beet herus, bee-beet mil-es, bee-beet cleh-rus

bibit ille, bibit illa, bibit servis cum ancilla,

bee-beet ee-leh, bee-beet ee-lah, bee-beet zer-vees cum an-tsee-la

bibit velox, bibit piger, bibit albus, bibit niger,

bee-beet felox, bee-beet pee-gger, bee-beet albus, bee-beet nee-gger,

bibit constans, bibit vagus, bibit rudis, bibit magnus.

bee-beet con-stanz, bee-beet vah-ggus, bee-beet ru-dees, bee-beet mahg-nus.

Bibit pauper et egrotus, bibit exul et ignotus,

Bee-beet pow-per et é-gro-tus, bee-beet exul et eeg-no-tus

bibit puer, bibit canus, bibit presul et decanus,

bee-beet pu-ehr, bee-beet cah-nus, bee-beet pré-sul et dé-cah-nus

bibit soror, bibit frater, bibit anus, bibit mater,

bee-beet zoror, bee-beet frah-ter, bee-beet ah-nus, bee-beet mah-ter,

bibit ista, bibit ille, bibunt centum, bibunt mille.

bee-beet i-stah, bee-beet i-leh, bee-bunt tsen-tum, bee-bunt mee-leh.

Parum sexcente nummate durant, cum immoderate

Pah-rum sek-sen-te nu-mah-te du-rant, cum im-od-er-ah-te

bibunt omnes sine meta. Quamvis bibant mente leta,

bee-bunt om-nes sin-eh me-tah. Kwam-vis bee-bant mehn-te le-ta,

sic nos rodunt omnes gentes et sic erimus egentes.

zic nos roh-dunt om-nes ggen-tes et zic er-ee-mus e-ggen-tes.

Qui nos rodunt confundantur et cum iustis non scribantur.

Kvee nos ro-dunt con-vun-dant-ur et cum yu-stees non scree-ban-tur.

Io io io io io io io io!

Yoh yoh yoh yoh yoh yoh yoh yoh!

15. Amor volat undique

(Ragazzi)

Amor volat undique;
A-mor vo-lat un-di-kvé;

captus est libidine.
cap-tus est li-bi-di-né.

Iuvenes, iuencule
yu-veh-nes, yu-ven-coo-lee

Coniungentur merito.
Con-yun-ggen-tur meer-i-toh.

Fit res amarissima.
Fit ress ah-mar-iss-i-mah.

18 Circa Mea Pectora

Note: "liet" and "niet" pronounced as in Russian "nyet"

1. Circa mea pectora multa sunt suspiria.
Seer-ca mey-a pec-to-ra mul-ta zunt sus-pi-ria.
2. Tui lucent oculi sicut solis radii.
Too-ee lu-tsent oculi zee-cut sol-ees rah-dee-ee.
3. Vellet deus, vellent dii, quod mente proposui.
Vell-et dey-us, vell-ent dee, kvod men-teh prop-os-u-ee.

Manda liet, man-da liet, min geselle chomet niet.
Man-da lyet, man-da lyet, min ge-zehl-le komm-et nyet.

19. Si puer com puellula

Bass:

Si puer cum puellula moraretur in cellula. (Si puer cum puellula moraretur in cellula.)

Zee pu-ehr cum pu-ell-u-la mor-ar-et-ur in tse-loo-la. (Zee pu-ehr cum pu-ell-u-la mor-ar-et-ur in tse-loo-la.)

Amore suscrescente, pariter e medio.

A-mor-é sus-kre-sen-te, par-ee-teh e meed-io.

Amore suscrescente, pariter e medio avulso procul tedio, avulso procul tedio,

A-mor-é sus-kre-sen-te, par-ee-teh e meed-io, ah-vul-so pro-kul ted-io,

Avulso procul tedio, fit ludus ineffabilis membris, lacertis, labiis,

Ah-vul-so pro-kul ted-io, fit loo-doos in-eff-ahb-il-ees mem-bris, la-tser-tis, lah-bee-is,

fit ludus ineffabilis membris, lacertis, labiis, si puer cum puellula moraretur in cellula

fit loo-doos in-eff-ahb-il-ees mem-bris, la-tser-tis, lah-bee-is, zee pu-ehr cum pu-ell-u-la mor-ar-et-ur in tse-loo-la.

Tenor:

Felix coniunctio.

Fé-leeks con-yunc-tsio.

20. Veni, Veni, Venias

Veni, veni, veni, venias.

Vi-ni, vi-ni, vi-ni vi-ni-as.

Veni, veni, venias, ne me mori, ne me mori, ne me mori facias

Vi-ni, vi-ni, vi-ni vi-ni-as, nee mee mor-i, nee mee mor-i fa-tsi-as

hyrcā, hyrcā, nazāza, nazāza, trillirivos, trillirivos, trillirivos!

heer-ka, heer-ka, nah-zah-zah, nah-zah-zah, trill-ee-ree-vos, trill-ee-ree-vos, trill-ee-ree-vos!

Pulchra tibi facies (nazāza)

Pul-kra tee-bee fa-tsi-es (nah-zah-zah)

oculorum acies, (nazāza)

ok-oo-lor-um a-tsi-es (nah-zah-zah)

capillorum series, (nazāza)

cah-pill-or-um zehr-ee-es (nah-zah-zah)

o quam clara species! (nazāza)

oh kvam kla-rah spē-tsi-es (nah-zah-zah)

Rosa rubicundior, (nazāza)

Ro-zah ru-bee-cun-dee-or (nah-zah-zah)

lilio candidior (nazāza)

lee-lee-o can-dee-dee-or (nah-zah-zah)

omnibus formosior, (nazāza)

om-nee-bus form-os-ee-or (nah-zah-zah)

semper in te glorior!

sem-peh in tey glor-ee-or

22. Tempus est iocundum

Tempus est iocundum o virgines,
Tem-pus est yo-cun-dum o veer-ggi-nes,

modo congaudete vos iuvenes.
mo-do con-gow-det-e voss yu-veh-nes

Oh, oh ,oh, totus florero,
o, o, o, toe-tus flor-e-o

iam amore virginali totus ardeo
yahm a-mor-é veer-ggi-nali to-tus ar-deh-o

novus, novus amor est, quo pereo.
no-vus, no-vus am-or est, kvo peer-eo

Mea me confortat promissio,
mey-ah mey con-for-taht pro-miss-io

mea me deportat negatio.
mey-a mey dep-or-taht nee-ga-tsi-o

(Oh , oh, oh totus floreo etc)

Tempore brumali vir patiens,
Tem-por bru-mah-li fir pa-tsi-ens

animo vernali lasciviens.
ah-ni-mo vehr-nah-li la-see-vi-ens

(Oh, oh oh, totus florero etc.)

Mea mecum ludit virginitas,
mey-a mey-cum loo-dit veer-ggi-nit-as

mea me detrudit simplicitas.
mey-a mey deh-tru-dit simp-liss-i-tas

(Oh, oh oh, totus florero etc)

Veni, domicella, cum gaudio,
Vi-ni, do-mi-tse-la, cum gow-dee-o

veni, veni, pulchra, iam pereo.
vi-ni, vi-ni, pul-kra, yahm peer-e-o.

(Oh, oh oh, totus florero etc)

24. Ave Formosissima

Ave formosissima, gemma pretiosa,
ah-vey for-mos-iss-i-mah, gge-ma pre-tsi-o-sa

ave decus virginum, virgo gloriosa,
ah-vey dee-cus veer-ggi-num, veer-go gloh-ree-o-sah

ave mundi luminar, ave mundi rosa,
ah-vey muhn-dee loo-min-ah, ah-vey muhn-dee roh-sah,

Blanziflor et Helena, Venus generosa!
Blan-tsi-flor et Hel-en-a, Vee-nus jen-ey-ro-sah!