

# **Cantigas d'amigo & Llibre Vermell**

## **A Performer's Edition**

### **Songs from Two Medieval Spanish Manuscripts**

## **Sample only**

**This document contains only *Ondas do mar* and  
*Stella splendens***

For some time I have been surprised that, even though these two groups of songs are amongst the most popular and most performed in the medieval repertoire, there is no readily available set of transcriptions of either the Cantigas d'amigo of Martin Codax nor the Llibre Vermell. This booklet is my attempt to fill this gap.

I have produced these transcriptions as a performer and for other performers. I have not intended it to be a Critical Edition nor as a work of scholarship (though there has been some). I have tried to give variant readings where I see there is substantial ambiguity in the manuscripts and annotated smaller ambiguities. Inevitably there is an amount of subjectivity in any transcription of medieval music.

The texts are taken from the facsimiles of the manuscripts and allowances must be made for my limited knowledge of paleography and Old Galician, Medieval Latin and Catalan. Sources for more authoritative versions of the texts can be found in the Further Sources section at the end.

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## Ondas do mar

The image shows a musical score for the song 'Ondas do mar'. It consists of three staves of music, each with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The melody is written in a simple, folk-like style with many ties. The lyrics are written below the notes. The first staff contains the lyrics 'On - das do mar de vi - go'. The second staff contains 'se vis - tes meu a - mi - go'. The third staff is labeled 'Refrain' and contains 'E ay deus, se ver - ra ce - do'. The music ends with a double bar line.

On - das do mar de vi - go  
se vis - tes meu a - mi - go  
**Refrain**  
E ay deus, se ver - ra ce - do

Ondas do mar de vigo  
se vistes meu amigo  
*E ay deus, se verra cedo*

Ondas do mar levado  
se vistes meu amado  
*E ay deus, se verra cedo*

Se vistes meu amigo  
o por que eu sospiro  
*E ay deus, se verra cedo*

Se vistes meu amado  
o por que ei gran coidado  
*E ay deus, se verra cedo*

### Semi-mensural Assumption

On - das do mar de<sup>3</sup> vi - go  
se vis - tes meu a - mi - go  
E ay deus, se ver - ra ce - do

The musical score consists of three staves of music in a single system. Each staff begins with a treble clef and a common time signature. The melody is written in a semi-mensural style, using a mix of note values including minims, crotchets, and quavers. The lyrics are written below the notes, with hyphens indicating syllables that span across multiple notes. A triplet of eighth notes is marked with a '3' above it in the first staff. The piece concludes with a double bar line at the end of the third staff.

### Rhythmic/Instrumental arrangement

The musical score for the rhythmic/instrumental arrangement consists of three staves of music in a single system, all in treble clef and common time. The melody is primarily composed of eighth and sixteenth notes, often grouped into pairs or triplets. There are three distinct triplet markings, each with a '3' below the notes. The piece ends with a double bar line at the end of the third staff.

## Stella splendens (f22v.)

A rubric at the beginning of this song describes it as a song full of sweetness, and 'ad trepidium rotundum' - to a sacred (?) round dance.

The rubric also says that pilgrims liked to sing and dance during their vigil in the church, and during the day in the square. It also says they should be performed in a respectful and sober manner.

*Refrain*

Stel - la splen - dens in mon - te ut so - lis ra - di - um

mi - ra - cu - lis ser - ra - to ex - au - di po - pu - lum.

*Stanza*

Con - cur - runt u - ni - ver - si, gau - den - tes po - pu - li,

Di - vi - tes et e - ge - ni, gran - des et par - vu - li.

Ip - sum in - gre - di - un - tur ut cer - nunt o - cu - li

Et in - de re - ver - tun - tur gra - ci - is re - ple - ti.

- Refrain -  
Stella splendens in monte  
ut solis radium  
miraculis serrato  
exaudi populum.

- 1 -  
Concurrunt universi  
gaudentes populi  
divites et egeni  
grandes et parvuli  
ipsum ingrediuntur  
ut cernunt oculi.  
Et inde revertuntur  
gracis repleti.

- 2 -  
Principes et magnates  
extirpe regia  
seculi potestates.  
Optenta venia  
peccaminum proclamant  
tundentes pectora  
poplite flexo clamant  
hic Ave Maria.

- 3 -  
Prelati et barones  
comites incliti  
religiosi omnes  
atque presbyteri  
milites mercatores  
cives marinari  
burgenses piscatores  
premiuntur ibi.

- 4 -  
Rustici aratores  
nec non notarii  
advocati scultores  
cuncti ligni fabri  
sartores et sutores  
nec non lanifici  
artifices et omnes  
gratulantur ibi.

- 5 -  
Regine comitisse  
illustres domine  
potentes et ancille  
iuvenes parvuli  
virgines et antique  
pariter vidue  
conscendunt et hunc montem  
et religiose.

- 6 -  
Cetus hi aggregantur  
hic ut exhibeant  
vota, regraciantur  
ut ipsa et reddant  
aulam istam ditantes  
hoc cuncti videant  
localibus ornantes  
soluti redeant.

- 7 -  
Cuncti ergo precantes  
sexus utriusque  
mentes nostras mundantes  
oremus devote  
virginem gloriosam  
matrem clementie  
in celis graciosam  
senciamus vere.