

Canon 12-in-1
Ista est speciosa

MATHIEU GASCONGNE

This piece appears in a choirbook possibly compiled for Mary Tudor, sister of Henry VIII, on her marriage to Louis XII of France in 1514. A single voice is provided, inscribed *Epithoniza bina tempora pausando vel econverso* ("At a higher tone, resting two time periods, or the converse"). The music contains 11 congruence signs indicating where each voice (in addition to the notated voice) ends. The canon can be resolved in two ways: (i) start with the notated voice, adding each voice a note higher than the previous entry; (ii) start with an inversion of the notated voice, adding each voice a note lower than the previous entry. In either case, to avoid tritones, the music must modulate at regular intervals.

(i) Bottom-up resolution

Source: Magdalen College, Cambridge, Pepys MS 1760.

Transposed up a tone. Note values halved.

Translation: This is the beautiful one among the daughters of Jerusalem.

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I- - - sta
I- - - sta est
I- - - sta est
sta est spe- - - ci-
est spe- - - ci- o- - - sa,
spe- - - ci- o- - - sa, spe- - - ci- o-
- ci- o- - - sa, spe- - - ci- o- sa, spe-
sa, spe- - - ci- o- sa, spe- ci- - o- sa
ci- o- sa, spe- ci- - o- sa in- - - ter fi-
spe- ci- - o- sa in- - - ter fi- li- - - as,
sa in- - - ter fi- li- - - as, in- - - ter

I- - sta - - - - - est - - - - -
 est - - - - - spe- - - - - ci-
 spe- - - - - ci- o- - - - - sa,
 spe- - - - - ci- o- - - - - sa, spe- - - - - ci- o-
 o- - - - - sa, spe- - - - - ci- o- sa, spe-
 spe- - - - - ci- o- sa, spe- ci- - - o- sa
 sa, spe- ci- - - o- sa in- - - - ter fi-
 ci- - o- sa in- - - ter fi- li- - - as,
 in- - - ter fi- li- - - as, in- - - - ter
 li- - - as, in- - - ter fi- - li- - - as,
 in- - - ter fi- - li- - - as, in- - - -
 fi- - li- - - as, in- - - - ter,

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spe- - - ci- o- - - ... sa.

o- - sa, spe- - ci- o- sa.

spe- - ci- o- sa, spe- ci- - o- sa

sa, spe- ci- - o- sa in- - - ter.

ci- - o- sa in- - ter fi- li- - - as.

in- - ter fi- li- - - - ... as.

li- - as, in- - ter fi- - li- - as,

in- - ter fi- - - li- ... as.

fi- - li- - as, in- - ter.

fi- - li- - - ... as.

ter fi- - li- as.

in- - ter fi- - li- as Je- ru- sa- - lem.

(ii) Top-down resolution

I- sta est spe- - - ci-

I- sta est

I- sta est

I- sta

9

o- - - sa, spe- - ci- o- sa, spe-

spe- - - - ci- o- - sa, spe- - ci- o-

spe- - - - ci- o- - sa,

est spe- - - - ci-

I- - - sta est

I- - - sta est

I- - - sta



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in- - ter fi- li- - as, in- - ter,
 li- - as, in- - ter fi- li- - as,
 in- - ter fi- li- - as, in- - ter fi- li-
 ci- - o- sa in- - ter fi- li- - as, in-
 sa, spe- ci- - o- sa in- - ter fi- li- -
 spe- - ci- o- sa, spe- ci- o- sa in- -
 o- - sa, spe- - ci- o- sa, spe- ci- o-
 spe- - - ci- o- - sa, spe- - ci- o- sa,
 spe- - - ci- o- - sa, spe- -
 est spe- - - ci- o- -
 I- - sta est spe- -
 I- - sta est

in- - ter fi- - li- as Je- ru- sa- lem.

in- - ter fi- - li- as. _____

- as, fi- - li- - ... as. _____

- ter fi- li- - as, in- - ter. _____

as, _____ in- - ter fi- - - li- ... as.

ter fi- li- - as, _____ in- - ter fi- li- - as,

8 sa in- - ter fi- li- - - - - ... as. _____

8 spe- ci- - o- sa in- - ter fi- li- - as.

8 ci- o- sa, spe- ci- - o- sa in- - ter.

sa, spe- - ci- o- sa, spe- ci- - o- sa.

- - ci- o- - sa, spe- - ci- o- sa. _____

_____ spe- - - - ci- o- - - - ... sa. _____