


Nesciens mater

Edited by Jason Smart

Thomas Wright (d.1558)

Tenor *[Solo]*



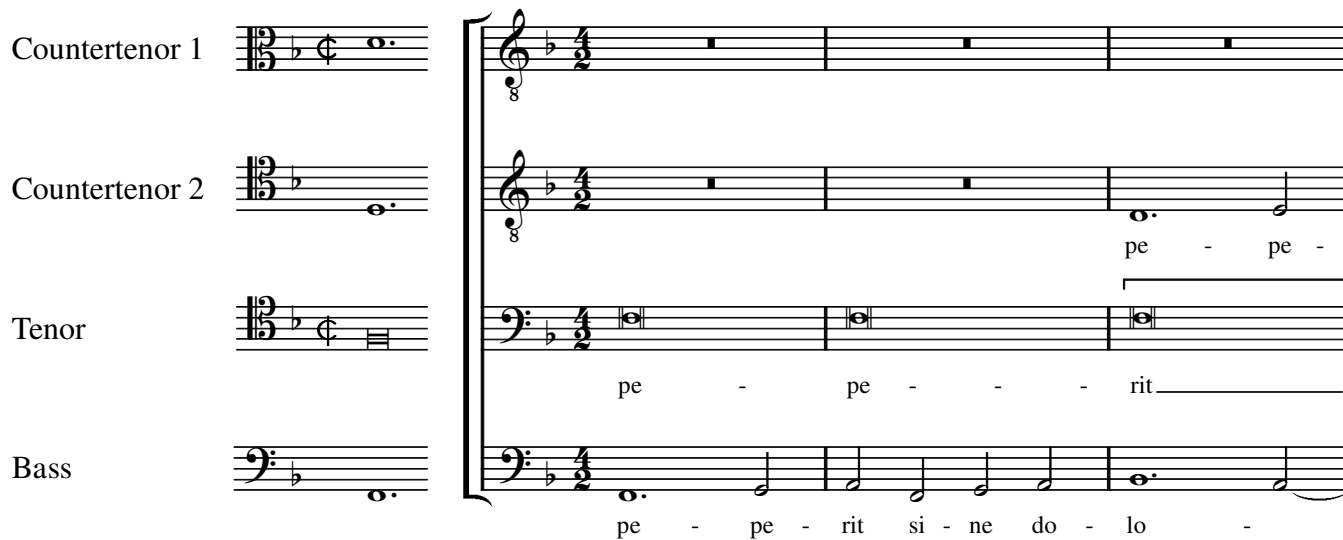
Ne - sci - ens ma - ter vir - go — vi - rum

Countertenor 1

Countertenor 2

Tenor

Bass



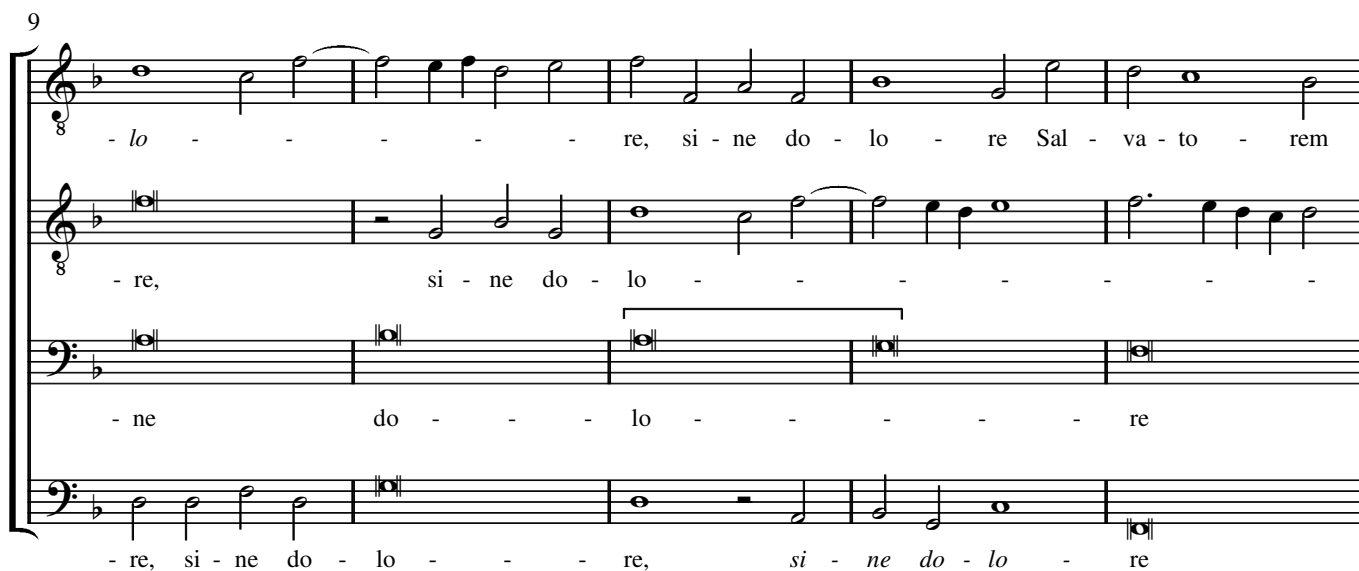
pe - pe -
pe - pe - - - rit
pe - pe - rit si - ne do - lo -

4



pe - pe - rit si - ne do - lo - re, si - ne do -
- rit si - ne do - lo - re, si - ne do - lo - - -
si - -
- - - re, si - ne do - lo - - -

9



- lo - - - re, si - ne do - lo - re Sal - va - to - rem
- re, si - ne do - lo - - -
- ne do - - - lo - - - re
- re, si - ne do - lo - - - re, si - ne do - lo - re

29

- rum, *i - psum re - gem an - ge - lo - - - - -*

- rum, *i - psum re - gem an - ge - lo - -*

- gem an - - - - ge - - - - lo - - - - -

- lo - - - - rum, *i - psum re - gem an - ge - lo - -*

34

- - rum; *so - la vir - go la - cta - - - - bat, so - la vir -*

- rum; *so - la vir - go la - cta - bat, so - la vir - go la - cta -*

- - - - - rum; *so - - - - la*

- - - - - rum; *so - la vir - go la - cta - bat,*

39

- go la - cta - bat, *so - la vir - go la - cta - bat, so - la vir - go la - cta -*

- bat, *so - la vir - go la - cta - - - - bat, so - la vir -*

vir - - - - go la - - - - cta - - - - -

so - la vir - go la - cta - bat, *so - la vir - go la - cta - - - - bat*

44

- bat u - be - ra de coe - lo ple - na, u -
 - go la - cta - bat u - be - ra de coe - lo ple - na,
 - bat u - - - be - - - -
 u - be - ra de coe - lo ple - - - -

48

- be - ra de coe - lo ple - na, ple -
 u - be - ra de coe - lo ple - na, ple -
 - ra de coe - - - -
 - - - - na, ple - - - -

53

- - - - na.
 - - - - na, ple - - - - na.
 - lo ple - - - - na.
 - - - - na.

Translation

Innocent of man, the virgin mother gave birth without pain to the saviour of the ages. The virgin alone suckled the very King of Angels with breasts filled from heaven.

Liturgical Function

A Magnificat antiphon for Vespers of the Virgin during Christmastide until the Purification, *Nesciens mater* was more regularly sung as a votive antiphon to the virgin. Wright's polyphonic setting was undoubtedly intended for votive use.

Editorial Conventions

The nomenclature of the voice-parts follows the Tudor convention.

The original clef, staff signature, mensuration symbol and first note of each part are shown on the prefatory staves.

Editorial accidentals are placed above the notes concerned and remain operative throughout the bar.

Ligatures are denoted by the sign \lrcorner .

Spelling of the text has been modernised.

Text repetition signs in the underlay have been expanded editorially in italics.

Source

London, British Library Add. MSS 17802–5 (the 'Gyffard Partbooks', c.1570–c.1578).

17802	(Ct2)	f.238 ^v	at end:	m ^f Wryghte
17803	(Ct1)	f.236 ^v	at end:	m ^f Wrighte
17804	(T)	f.227 ^v	at beginning:	m ^f Wrighte
17805	(B)	f.217 ^v	at end:	m ^f Wrighte

Notes on the Readings of the Source

8	B	b for B
19	Ct2	first F is G
19–20	Ct2	<i>sipe dolo</i> (sic) below FFFE
20	Ct2	F is minim
24	Ct1	# for F