

Amar dei

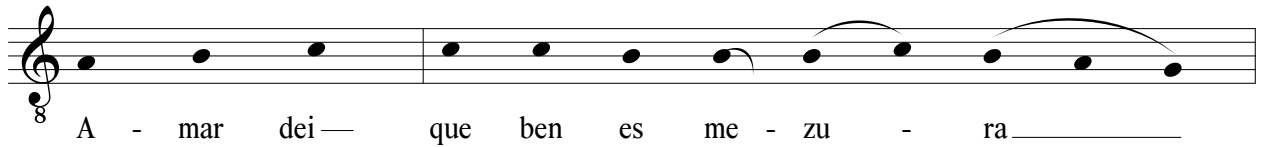
contrafact, melody from "Amis Bernart de Ventadorn"

F-Pn fonds fr. 844, 190v (Troubadour W)

text attributed to Bernart Marti (12th century), PC 63.1; melody attributed to Peire d'Alvernhe (fl. 1149-70)

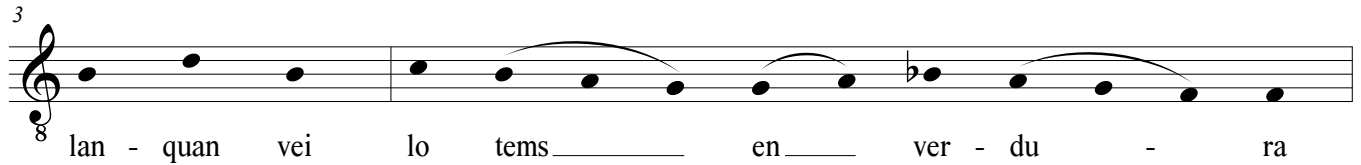
text edited by Sarah Kay after Beggiato, *Il Trovatore Bernart Marti*, Song 1, 55-64, and Gaut, *Troubadours and Irony*, 80-85

translation by Sarah Kay, music transcribed by Christopher Preston Thompson



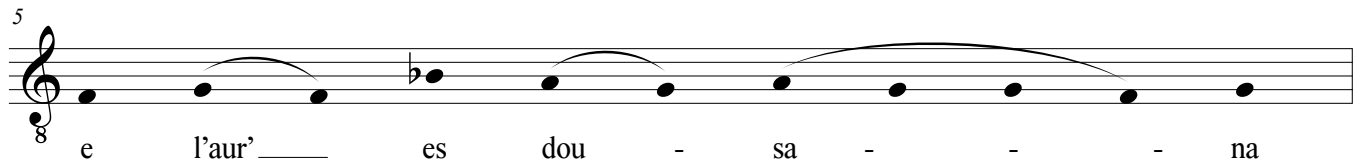
A - mar dei — que ben es me - zu - ra _____

3



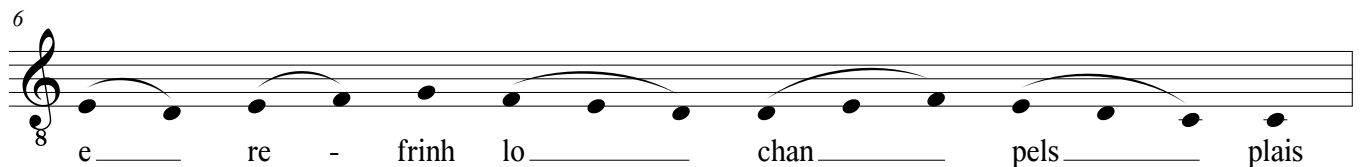
lan - quan vei lo tems _____ en _____ ver - du - ra

5



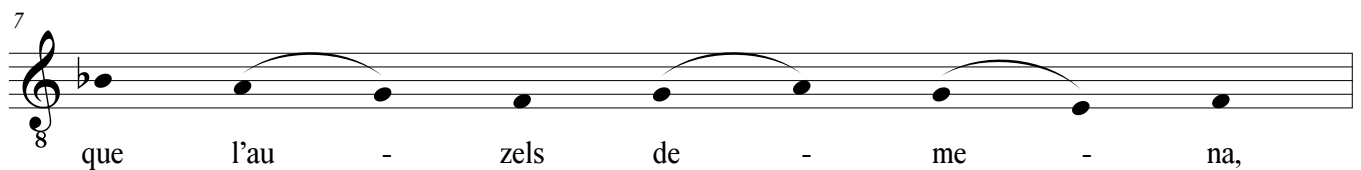
e l'aur' _____ es dou - sa - - - na

6



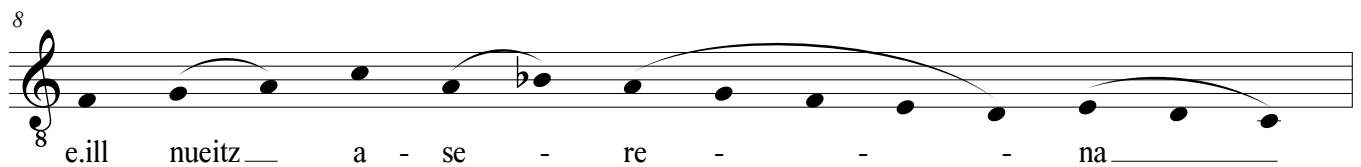
e _____ re - frinh lo _____ chan _____ pels _____ plais

7



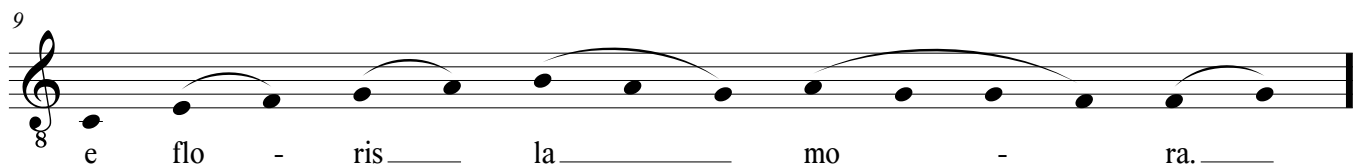
que l'au - zels de - me - na,

8



e.ill nueitz _____ a - se - re - - - na _____

9



e flo - ris _____ la _____ mo - ra. _____

Stanza 2

Amar dei

8 Dunc domp - nei co - lor en pein - tu - ra, _____

12 8 mas be vei en plan _____ ma _____ ran - cu - ra;

14 8 cui sa _____ don' en - gua - - - na

15 8 tan _____ no.s _____ pa - gua _____ ni _____ s'i - rais _____

16 8 que ja _____ m'en so - ve - nha _____

17 8 delh a - mor ter - re - - - na, _____

18 8 so - ven _____ chant' _____ e _____ plo - ra. _____

Stanza 3

Amar dei

8 Ges no.l nei que sa for - fai - tu - ra

21 8 no.ill plai - dei tot per nueit es - cu - ra

23 8 ab leis ses lu - gua - - - na;

24 8 mas, la.m vail - la Dieus, la bais,

25 8 gar - dan de mal ple - na

26 8 que.l plait des - tre - me - - - na

27 8 e d'als non la - bo - ra.

Amar dei

Stanza 4

8 L'aer cor - rei, qu'es com fo - la - tu - ra;

30 8 leis non grei, si.l veils _____ quers _____ pe - ju - ra

32 8 [Text - omitted - in - MS]

33 8 las, _____ as _____ que.s fa - ra _____ ja - mais?

34 8 Tan greu _____ cuj re - ve - na,

35 8 tant ha _____ bla - va _____ ve - - - na, _____

36 8 c'uns veil - lums _____ lan - go - ra. _____

Stanza 5

Amar dei

8 Leis mer - cei d'ei - sa sa tor - tu - ra;

39 se - nho - rei si vas _____ mi.s _____ meil - lu - ra

41 on es _____ tant tre - fa - - - na;

42 pe - ro _____ ges ieu _____ no.m _____ n'es - mai

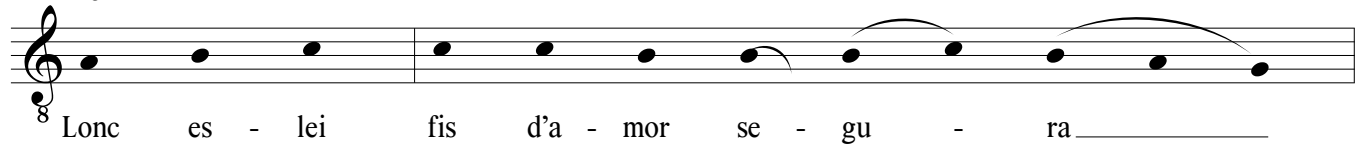
43 del ben _____ que.m n'a - ve - nha;

44 gen bai - zan m'es - tre - - - na, _____

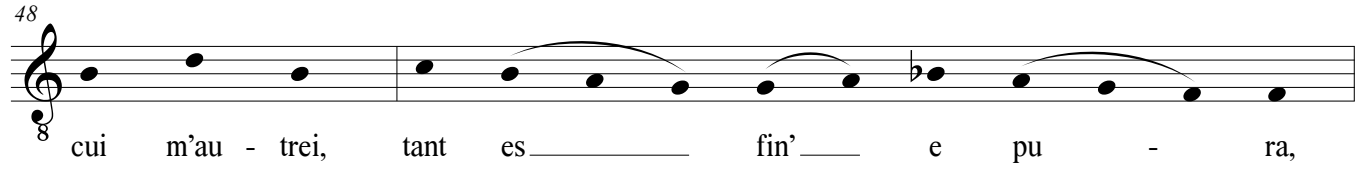
45 de que _____ m'a - se - nho - ra. _____

Amar dei

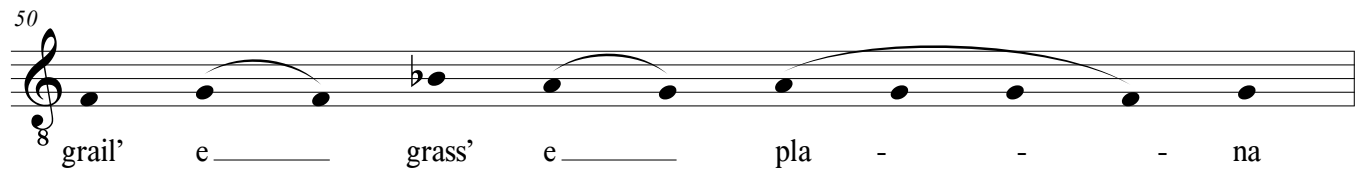
Stanza 6



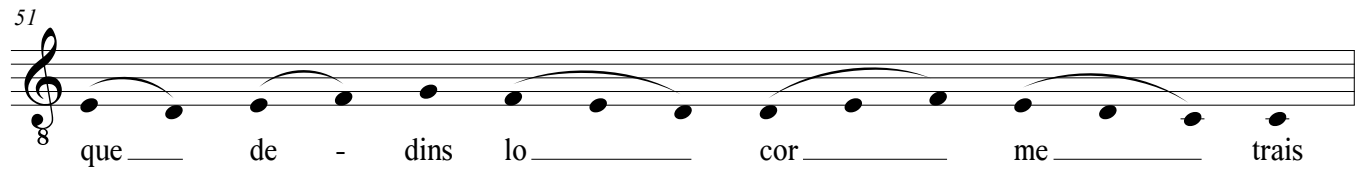
8 Lonc es - lei fis d'a - mor se - gu - ra



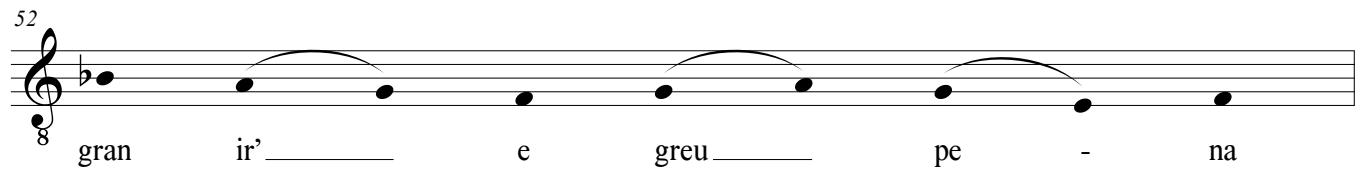
48 8 cui m'au - trei, tant es fin' e pu - ra,



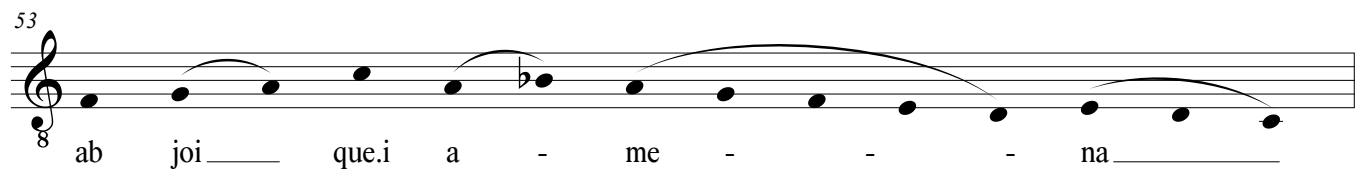
50 8 grail' e grass' e pla - - - na



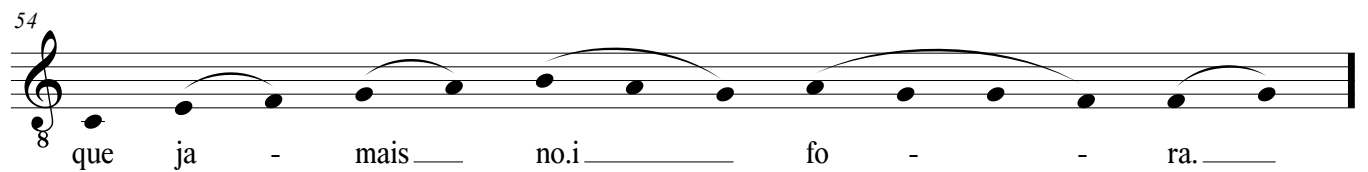
51 8 que de - dins lo cor me trais



52 8 gran ir' e greu pe - na



53 8 ab joi que.i a - me - - - na



54 8 que ja - mais no.i fo - - - ra.

Amar dei

Stanza 7

8 Non a rei el mon, tan com du - ra,

57 meils es - tei, ric' e de me - zu - ra

59 e d'o - nor cer - ta - na,

60 ab sol u - na vetz que.m bais

61 e no, ses con - te - na,

62 mai s'a - mor re - te - na.

63 No sei quant ho co - ra.

Amar dei

I must love—
for measure requires it
when I see
the season in greenery
and the breeze is mild
and the song that the bird sings
resonates through the hedgerows
and the night is serene
and the blackberry is in flower.

Then I pay court
to painted color
but I see my grievance
only too plainly.
The man whose lady deceives him
is neither so appeased nor so angry
— let me never forget —
he often sings and laments
for [having chosen] earthly love.

I don't at all deny
that I do not accuse her
of her crime
together with her
all through the dark night without a light;
rather, so God help me prevail, I kiss her,
seeing that, full of evil as she is,
she ends the case
and strives for nothing else.

I beat the air,
which is like raving;
let it not torment her
if old skin gets worse
.
alas, with whom will she ever do it?
I think it will be difficult for her to
recover,
she has such evil blood
that old age is made to suffer.

I thank her
for the very torture she has inflicted;
I am lordly
if she improves toward me
when she is so treacherous;
and so I am not at all discouraged about
the good that could come to me from her;
she rewards me, kissing me graciously,
making me her lord.

A long demonstration
have I made of secure love,
submitting to her
who is so fine and pure
slender, shapely and smooth
that she has drawn great distress
and pain from my heart
by means of the joy she brought there
which would never be there otherwise.

There is no king in the world
as long as it endures
who is in a better place [than me],
rich and measured
and with certain honor
provided she kiss me the once
and without dispute
does not withhold her love.
I don't know at what time or when.

— Sarah Kay

Notes on the text:

l. 33, This version of the line has been added in the manuscript, as if to correct the first reading, “*lassa, que's fara jamais?*” (Wretched woman, what will ever become of her?).

— Sarah Kay

Notes on the music:

No melody is transmitted for Marti's “Amar dei” in any of the Troubadour manuscripts. The new contrafact presented here borrows the melody of Peire d'Alvernhe's “Amis Bernart de Ventadorn,” which serves as a host for the text of “Amar dei.” To accommodate the uncommon versification of Marti's song the first two lines of Peire d'Alvernhe's borrowed melody are divided here into four lines in each stanza, and the distribution of syllables within each melodic line is altered. For more on this contrafact, see the accompanying performance reflection narrative.

l. 2, The downward curving tail on note 4 (and all subsequent occurrences) represents a *plica*.

— Christopher Preston Thompson