

1. Secourez moy madame par amours

37 Chansons musicales a quatre parties, Pierre Attaignant, Paris 1528

Claudin de Sermisy (ca.1490-1562)

Superius
 Contratenor
 Tenor
 Bassus

Se cou - rez moy ma - da - me par a - mours ou au - tre -
 tre que vous ne peut don - ner se - cours a mon las

6

ment *ou au - tre - ment* la mort me vient que - rir au - rir he - las hel -
 coeur le - quel pour vous sen va mou - - - - -

11

las ve - nez tost se - cou - rir cel - luy qui vit pour vous en grand tri - stes -
 - - - - -

18

se Car de son coeur vous es - tes la mais - tres - - - - se Car se.
 se. Car de son coeur vous es - tes la mais - tres - - - - se Car se.
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 se Car de son coeur vous es - tes la mais - tres - - - - se Car se.

Secourez moy, ma dame par amours,
Ou aultrement la mort me vient querir.
Aultre que vous ne peult donner secours
A mon las cueur, lequel s'en va mourir.
Helas, helas, vueillez donc secourir
Celluy, qui vit pour vous en grand destresse [tristesse],
Car de son cueur vous estes la maistresse.

Si par aymer, et souffrir nuictz et jours,
L'amy dessert ce, qu'il vient requerir,
Dictes, pourquoy faictes si longs sejours
A me donner ce, que tant veulx cherir?
O noble fleur, laisserez vous perir,
Vostre Servant, par faulte de lyesse?
Je croy qu'en vous n'a point tant de rudesse.

Vostre rigueur me fait plusieurs destours,
Quand au premier je vous vins requerir:
Mais Bel Acueil m'a faict d'assez bons tours,
En me laissant maint baiser conquerir.
Las vos baisers ne me sçavent guerir,
Mais vont croissant l'ardant feu, qui me presse:
Jouyssance est ma medecine expresse.

*Save me, my lady by your love,
for otherwise death will come to get me.
No one but you can give life to my poor heart,
which is about to die.
Helas, please come to rescue him
who is living in great misery because of you,
for you are the Mistress of his heart.*

*If through love and suffering night and day,
the Beloved gets what he came looking for,
say, why do you take so long
to give me what I so much want to cherish?
Oh, precious flower, will you let
your servant perish for lack of joy?
I do not believe that such rudeness is inside you.*

*Your austerity forced me to make several detours,
since I first came searching for you;
But 'Welcome' showed me plenty of good ways
and made me win many a kiss.
Unfortunately, instead of healing me,
your kisses fan the burning fire that oppresses me:
Enjoyment is the proper and effective drug.*

Text: Clément Marot (1496–1544), *L'Adolescence Clementine*, 1533.

Slightly normalized French spelling.

English translation by Dick Wursten,

<https://clementmarot.com/chansons.htm>

Critical notes

This score is a modern edition of an four-part setting of the chanson “Secourez moy madame par amours” by the French composer Claudin de Sermisy (ca.1490–1562), primarily known for his French chansons. But he was also a prominent composer of church music. In periods of his career he was appointed to the French Royal Chapel.

The primary source of this edition is no. 1 in a collection, *Trente et sept chansons musicales a quatre parties* (ATTAIGN), published in Paris ca. 1528 by Pierre Attaignant. The collection consists of four part books: *Superius*, *Contratenor*, *Tenor* and *Bassus* (S, A, T, B).

The text is by the French poet Clément Marot (1496–1544). In ATTAIGN only the initial stanza is supplied. The editor has added two other stanzas from the poet's collection “L'Adolescence Clementine”, Paris 1533 (<https://mdz-nbn-resolving.de/urn:nbn:de:bvb:12-bsb10860189-7>)

The underlaid lyrics in ATTAIGN are not unambiguously coupled with the notes. So the placement of text is mostly the editor's decisions. The spelling follows ATTAIGN.

This edition is based on facsimiles from IMSLP. See [https://imslp.org/wiki/37_Chansons_musicales_a_quatre_parties_\(Attaignant,_Pierre\)](https://imslp.org/wiki/37_Chansons_musicales_a_quatre_parties_(Attaignant,_Pierre))

Note values have been halved.