

Transcribed & edited by Francis Bevan ~ April 2024

Transposed down a tone for The Southwell Consort. Accidentals above noteheads are editorial; all others present in source. Brackets above notes indicate original ligatures.

*Il secondo libro de motetti a sei...*

Venice: Gardano, 1593

RISM M2364

Beata viscera Mariæ Virginis,  
quæ portaverunt æterni Patris Filium.

Blessed is the womb of the Virgin Mary,  
that bore the son of the everlasting Father.

## ***Beata viscera Mariæ***

Claudio MERULO  
(1533–1604)

The musical score consists of six staves, each representing a voice part:

- Cantus:** Treble clef, C key signature.
- Sextus:** Treble clef, C key signature.
- Altus:** Treble clef, C key signature.
- Tenor:** Treble clef, C key signature.
- Quintus:** Bass clef, C key signature. This staff begins with a sustained note followed by the lyrics "Be - a - ta vi - sce -".
- Bassus:** Bass clef, C key signature. This staff begins with a sustained note followed by the lyrics "Be - a - ta".

The music is in common time. The Quintus and Bassus parts provide harmonic support while the upper voices sing the melody. The lyrics are integrated into the musical structure, appearing on the Quintus staff and continuing on the Bassus staff.

5

Be - - - - -  
Be - a - ta vi - - - - -  
ra Ma - ri - - - - - æ Vir - - - gi - nis, be - a - - - - -  
vi - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - sce - ra Ma - - - - -

This section consists of four staves. The top two staves are soprano and alto voices, both in G clef. The third staff is tenor in F clef, and the bottom staff is basso continuo in C clef. Measure 5 starts with a rest in each part. Measures 6 and 7 begin with sustained notes. Measure 8 features a vocal entry for 'ra' followed by a melodic line for 'Ma'.

9

Be - - - - -  
- a - - ta vi - - - - - sce - ra - - - - -  
- - - - - sce - ra - - - - - Ma - - - - - ri - - - - - æ Vir - - - - -  
Be - - - - - a - - ta vi - - - - -  
- ta vi - - - - - - - - - - - sce - ra Ma - - ri - æ Vir - - - - -  
- ri - æ Vir - - gi - nis, - - - - -

This section continues with four staves. The soprano and alto parts begin with sustained notes. The tenor part has a melodic line for 'sce' and 'ra'. The basso continuo part has a melodic line for 'Ma', 'ri', and 'æ'. The final measure concludes with a sustained note for 'Vir'.

13

a - ta vi - - - - sce - ra Ma -  
— Ma - ri - - ae Vir - - - - gi - nis,  
- - gi - nis, Ma - ri - ae Vir - - - - gi - nis,  
- - sce - ra Ma - ri - - - - ae Vir - - - - gi -

8

- gi - nis, be - - - - a - - - ta  
be - - - - a - - - ta vi - - - - sce - ra

17

ri - - - ae Vir - - - -

be - - - -

be - - - - a - - - ta vi - - - - sce - ra

8

- nis, Ma - ri - ae Vir - gi - nis,  
vi - - - - sce - ra Ma - - - - ae

sce - ra Ma - - - - ri - - - -

21

gi - nis, quæ  
a - ta vi - sce - ra Ma - ri -  
— Ma - ri - æ Vir - - - gi - nis,  
be - a - ta vi - - - sce - ra Ma -  
Vir - gi - nis, be - a - ta vi - - - sce - ra Ma -  
æ Vir - - - gi - nis,

25

porta - ve - - - runt æ - ter - - - ni Pa - tris Fi -  
æ Vir - - - gi - nis, quæ por - ta - ve -  
quæ por - ta - ve - - - runt æ - ter - - - ni Pa -  
- ra Ma - ri - - - æ Vir - - - gi - nis, quæ por - ta - ve -  
- ri - - - æ Vir - - - gi - nis,  
quæ por - ta - ve - - - runt æ - ter -

29

li - um, æ - ter - ni Pa -  
runt æ - ter - ni Pa - tris Fi -  
- tris Fi - li - um, quæ por - ta - ve - runt  
runt æ - ter - ni Pa - tris Fi -  
quæ por - ta - ve - runt æ -  
ni Pa - tris Fi - li - um,

33

- tris Fi - li - um,  
li - um, quæ por - ta - ve -  
æ - ter - ni Pa - tris Fi - li - um,  
li - um, quæ por - ta - ve - runt æ - ter -  
ter - ni Pa - tris Fi - li - um, quæ por - ta -  
quæ por - ta - ve -

37

quæ por - ta - ve - runt æ - ter - ni Pa - - - tris  
runt æ - ter - ni Pa - - - tris Fi - li - um,  
— quæ por - ta - ve - runt  
ni Pa - - - tris Fi -  
ve - - runt æ - ter - - - ni Pa - - -  
runt æ - - - ter - - - ni Pa - - -

41

Fi - li - um, quæ por - ta - ve - runt æ - ter -  
quæ por - ta - ve - runt æ - ter -  
æ - ter - ni Pa - - - tris Fi - - - li - um,  
li - um, quæ por - ta - ve - runt æ - ter - ni Pa - - -  
tris Fi - li - um, quæ por - ta - ve - runt æ - ter - ni Pa - - - tris  
tris Fi - - - li - um, quæ por - ta - ve -

46

ni, æ - ter - ni Pa - - - tris Fi - - - li - um.

ni Pa - - - tris Fi - - - - - li - um.

æ - ter - - - ni Pa - tris Fi - li - um.

tris Fi - - - li - um.

Fi - - - li - um, æ - ter - ni Pa - tris Fi - li - um.

runt æ - ter - ni Pa - - - - - tris Fi - - - li - um.