

# Fortuna desperata

Composed by Antoine Busnois (c. 1430 – 1492)

Arranged for voice and piano by Alex Ness,  
based on the transcription by Martin Schubert<sup>1</sup>

## Introduction

Over the last year or so, I've been arranging early music repertoire for myself to sing while playing the piano. I'd like to share this wonderful music with you, and to encourage you to rearrange it to your own tastes and abilities: for example, by transposing it to a different register, changing the instrumentation, or making the counterpoint simpler or more complex. MuseScore and MusicXML source files are available to make such alterations as painless as possible.

## Text<sup>2</sup>

### Italian

Fortuna desperata  
Iniqua e maledecta  
Che de tal dona electa  
La fama hai denigrata.

O morte dispietata  
Inimica e crudele  
Che d'alto più che stelle  
L'hai cusì abassata.

Meschino e despietata  
Ben piangere posso may  
Et desiro finire,  
Desiro finire i mei guay.

### English

Desperate fate,  
iniquitous and maledicted  
who blackened the good name  
of a woman beyond compare.

O relentless death  
inimical and cruel  
that abased her,  
who stood higher than the stars.

All alone and in despair  
I can do nothing else than weep  
and I desire my sorrow  
to come to an end.

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<sup>1</sup> Source: [http://imslp.org/wiki/Fortuna\\_desperata\\_\(Busnois,\\_Antoine\)](http://imslp.org/wiki/Fortuna_desperata_(Busnois,_Antoine))

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<sup>2</sup> Source: [http://www0.cpd.org/wiki/index.php/Fortuna\\_desperata\\_\(Alexander\\_Agricola\)](http://www0.cpd.org/wiki/index.php/Fortuna_desperata_(Alexander_Agricola))

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# Fortuna desperata

Antoine Busnois, arr. Alex Ness  
based on the transcription by Martin Schubert

V1

For - tu - na de - spe - ra - ta, in - i - qua e ma - le -

7

de - cta, ma - le - de - cta, che de\_\_\_ tal\_\_\_

8

do - na e - le - cta,

8

la fa - ma hai de - ni - gra - ta,

la fa - ma hai de - ne - gra - ta.

V2

O mor - te di - spie - ta - ta, in - i - mi - ca

e cru - de - le, e cru - de - le, che

42

d'al - to più che stel - - - le,

48

l'hai cu - si a - bas - sa -

53

ta, l'hai cu - si a - bas - sa - ta.

59

V3

Me - schi - no et de - spie - ta - ta ben pian - ge - re

65

pos-so ma - y, \_\_\_\_\_ pos - so ma -

71

- y; \_\_\_\_\_ et \_\_\_\_\_ de - si - ro fi - ni - re \_\_\_\_\_

77

\_\_\_\_\_ i \_\_\_\_\_ me - i \_\_\_\_\_ gua - y, \_\_\_\_\_

82

\_\_\_\_\_ fi - ni - re i me - i gua - y.