Amintor's Welladay

Henry Hughes

Henry Lawes British Library Add. MS 53723, f.144v Edited by Christopher Baum



(1) In the thoroughbass staff, the end of bar 15 and the beginning of bar 16 are blotted out in the source. It is not clear whether the g (given here editorially) was present in the original, but the semibreves on either side of it are not dotted -- unlike every other bass note in the piece which is intended to take up an entire bar.

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His oaten pipe that in thy praise Was wont to play such roundelays, Is thrown away, and not a swain Dares pipe, or sing, within his plain; 'Tis death for any now to say One word to him but welladay.

The maypole where thy little feet So roundly did in measures meet, Is broken down, and no content Comes near Amintor since you went. All that I ever heard him say Was Chloris, Chloris, welladay.

Upon those banks you us'd to tread He ever since hath laid his head, And whisper'd there such a pining woe, As not a blade of grass will grow; O Chloris! Chloris! come away, And hear Amintor's welladay.