

Io mi son giovinetta

Giovanni Boccaccio (1313-1375)

Jan Pieterszoon Sweelinck (1562-1621)

Rimes françoise et italiennes (Plantinienne press, Antwerp, Leiden)

Superius

Tenor

5

10

15

Superius: Io mi son gio - vi-net - ta^e vo-len-tie - ri, Io, Io

Tenor: Io mi son gio-vi-net-ta^e vo-len-tie - ri, Io mi son

Bass: mi son gio - vi-net-ta^e vo-len - tie - ri M'al - le - gro^e can-to en la sta-gion no -

Bass: gio - vi - net - ta^e vo - len - tie - ri M'al - le - gro^e can-to en la sta-gion no - vel -

Bass: vel - - - la, M'al - le - gro^e can-to en la sta - gion no - vel - - - la,

Bass: la, M'al - le - gro^e can-to en la sta - gion no - vel - - - la, M'al - le - gro^e can-to en la sta -

Bass: M'al - le - gro^e can-to en la sta-gion no - vel - - la, M'al - le - gro^e can-to en la sta-gion no - vel - -

Bass: gion no - vel - - - la, M'al - le - gro^e can-to en la sta - gion no - vel - - -

Bass: la, Mer - cé d'A - mor, Mer - cé d'A - mo - r'e de' dol-ci pen - sie - ri, e

Bass: la, Mer - cé d'A - mor, Mer - cé d'A - mo - r'e de' dol-ci pen - sie - ri, e de' dol -

20

de' dol-ci pen - sie - ri. Io vo per ver-di pra - ti, *Io vo per ver-di pra - ti, Io*
ci pen-sie - ri. Io vo per ver-di pra - ti, *Io vo per ver-di pra -*

25

vo per ver-di pra-ti ri-guar-dan - do I bian-chi fio - ri, *I bian - chi fio -*
ti, Io vo per ver-di pra - ti ri - guar-dan - do I bian-chi fio - ri, I bian-chi fio -

30

ri, I bian-chi fio - ri, I bian-chi fio - ri, I bian-chi fio-ri e' gial - li Le ro - se in
ri, I bian-chi fio - ri, I bian-chi fio - ri e' gial - li Le

35

sul-le spi - ni, Le ro-se in sul-le spi-ni e' bian - chi gi - gli,
ro-se in sul-le spi-ni, Le ro-se in sul - le spi - ni e' bian-chi gi - gli, E

40

E tut - ti quan - ti, E tut - ti quan - - ti, *E tut - ti quan- ti gli vo*
tut - ti quan - - ti, E tut - ti quan - ti, E tut - ti quan- ti gli vo so -

so - mi - glian - do Al vi-so di co - lui, *Al vi-so di co - lui ch'a-man-do-mi,*
- mi-glian - do Al vi-so di co-lui, Al vi-so di co - lui ch'a-

45

50

man - do-mi, ch'a-man - do-mi Mi pre-se e ter - rà sem - pre.

Io mi son giovinetta, e volentieri
m'allegro e canto en la stagion novella,
mercé d'amore e de' dolci pensieri.
Io vo per verdi prati riguardando
i bianchi fiori e' gialli,
le rose in su le spini e' bianchi gigli,
e tutti quanti gli vo somigliando
al viso di colui che amandomi
mi prese e terrà sempre.

I am a young maiden, and gladly
do I rejoice and sing in the new season,
thanks to love and sweet thoughts.
I wander through green meadows, regarding
the white and yellow flowers,
the roses among their thorns and the white lilies,
and comparing them all as I go
to the face of him, who loving me
took me and shall hold me forever.

translation by editor

Note: This extensively quotes from Domenico Ferrabosco's 4-voice setting of the text (that madrigal initially published in 1542, and reprinted numerous times for the next century), to a degree it is more an arrangement of that piece for two voices than a new composition.

The text is from Boccaccio's *Decameron*, being Neifile's song at the conclusion of the ninth day (with this text featuring some minor textual variation from Boccaccio's autograph manuscript). Neifile's name derives from Greek and suggests 'newly enamored': She is also described in the Decameron as *una nuova amante*, 'a new lover.'