

## Nigra sum, sed formosa

From the Song of Solomon

Third Antiphon for the second Vespers of Feasts of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Set by *Jehan L'Heritier* (1480-1552); *Claudio Monteverdi* (1567-1643), *Nigra sum*; *Giovanni Pierluigi da Palestrina* (1525-1594); *Michael Praetorius* (1571-1621); *Tomás Luis de Victoria* (1548-1611)

<b>Nígra</b>	<b>sum,</b>	<b>sed</b>	<b>formósa,</b>
[ˈniː.ɡrɑ	su:m	sɛd	fɔr.'mɔː.sɑ]
Black	I-am,	but	beautiful,
<i>(I am black, but beautiful,)</i>			

<b>filiæ</b>	<b>Jerúsalem,</b>
[ˈfiː.li.ɛ	jɛ.'ruː.sa.lɛm]
daughters	of-Jerusalem,
<i>(daughters of Jerusalem,)</i>	

sicut tabernácula Cedar,  
sicut pélles Salomónis.

Nolíte me consideráre  
Quod fúsca sim,  
quía decolorávit me sol.

Fílii mátris méæ  
pugnávérunt cóntra me;  
posuérunnt me custódem in víneis.

Ideo diléxit me Rex,  
et introdúxit me  
in cubículum súum.

Et díxit míhi:  
Súrge et véni amíca méa,  
jam híems tránsiit,  
ímber ábiit et recéssit.

Flóres apparuérunnt in térra nóstra,  
témpus putatiónis advénit. Allelúia.

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The entire text to this title with the complete  
IPA transcription and literal translation is available for download.

*Thank you!*

