

## Nigra sum, sed formosa

Latin sacred text 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)

**Nígra**      **sum,**      **sed**      **formósa,**  
[ˈniː.ɡrɑ      su:m      sɛd      fɔr.ˈmɔː.sɑ]  
Black      I-am,      but      beautiful,  
(*I am black, but beautiful,*)

**filiæ**      **Jerúsalem,**  
[ˈfiː.li.ɛ      jɛ.ˈruː.sa.lɛm]  
daughters      of-Jerusalem,  
(*daughters of Jerusalem,*)

sicut tabernácula Cedar,  
sicut pélles Salomónis.

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

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

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

Et díxit míhi:  
Súrge et véni amíca méa...

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

*Thank you!*

