

# Se La Face Ay Pale

Guillaume Dufay, c. 1397-1474

Wolfenbüttel ms., 1470-1471.  
Edited by James Merryweather, 2014.

Musica ficta editorial.

5

Superius

Contratenor

Tenor

Bar amended to conform with Oxford 213 & Escorial B mss.

10

Minim & rest in ms.

No rest in ms.

15

20

Minim & rest in ms.

Minim & rest in ms.

25

D in Wolfenbüttel & Schedel mss.  
E in Washington & Oxford mss.

Se la face ay palle,  
La cause est d'aymer,  
C'est la principale,  
et tant m'est amer  
[Amer], qu'en la mer  
me voudroie voir;  
Car c'est bien de voir  
la belle a qui suis  
Qui nul bien avoir  
sans elle ne puis.

If my face seems pale,  
the cause is love,  
it is the principal reason,  
and to me love is so  
bitter that I could  
throw myself into the sea;  
now she knows in truth,  
the fair one I serve,  
that I cannot have any  
happiness without her.

Ce pesante malle  
de dueil a porter  
Ceste amour est male  
pour moy de porter;  
Car soi deporter  
ne veult de vouloir,  
Fors qu'a son vouloir  
obeisse et puis  
Qu'elle a tel vouloir.  
Sans elle ne puis.

When I have a heavy weight  
of regret to carry,  
this Love is hard  
for me to bear;  
for to enjoy myself  
she will not allow,  
except that I her wishes  
obey, and since  
she has such power,  
I cannot live without her.