Carl Orff Carmina¹ Burana

(Chorus parts)
IPA TRANSCRIPTION AND LITERAL TRANSLATION

[NB: The pronunciation of the Latin text given in this transcription is a mixture of Italianate and Germanic Latin. The vowels are pronounced as they would be in Italianate Latin. The consonants, however, are (mostly) pronounced as in Germanic Latin. The pronunciation of the Middle High German follows the instructions given in Chapter 15 of McGee, Rigg and Klausner: Singing Early Music. LHS]

1. O FORTUNA

back

O Fortúna vélut Lúna státu variábilis, sémper créscis [krɛstsis] aut decréscis
O Fortune as the moon in a state variable, always you increase or you decrease

[dɛkrɛstsis]; víta detestábilis nunc obdúrat et tunc cúrat lúdo méntis life horrible now hardens and then pampers by a game of the mind

áciem [atsiɛm], egestátem [ɛgɛstatɛm], potestátem dissólvit ut gláciem [glatsiɛm]. the keenness, poverty, power destroy as ice

Sors immánis et inánis, róta tu volúbilis, státus málus, vána sálus sémper Fate horrible and empty, wheel you turning, state bad, void welfare always

dissolúbilis, obumbráta et veláta míchi [miki] quóque níteris; nunc per lúdum dórsum dissolvable, covered up and veiled to me also you attack; now through a game

núdum fára túi ggálaria (taglaria)

núdum féro túi scéleris [tsɛlɛris]. bare I bear of your crime.

Sors salútis et virtútis míchi [miki] nunc contrária; est afféctus et deféctus Fate of health and of virture to me now (is) opposed; is zeal and failure

sémper in angária [aŋgaria]. Hac [hak] in hóra [hɔra] síne móra córde always in struggle. This In hour without delay in (my) heart

púlsum tángite [taŋgitɛ]; quod per sórtem stérnit fórtem, mécum ómnes the pulse touche; which through fate overthrows strong, with me all

¹ Please note: the word is CARmen, CARminis, n. (CARmina, pl.) with the accent always on the first syllable, not the second. Yes, you will almost always hear it pronounced incorrectly with the accent on the second syllable, but that is no reason why we have to. LHS

2. FORTUNE PLANGO VULNERA

Fortúnę (ę=ae) [fɔrtune] plángo [plangɔ] vúlnera stillántibus océllis [ɔtsɛlis] Of Fortune I lament the wounds with tearing eyes

quod súa míchi [miki] múnera súbtrahit [subtrahit] rebéllis. Vérum est, quod because her from me gifts take away always making war. True it is what

légitur [lɛgitur], frónte capilláta, sed plerúmque séquitur Occásio calváta. Is read, with a forehead with long hair, but usually it follows chance bald.

In Fortúnę [fortune] sólio séderam elátus, prosperitátis vário flóre On Fortune's throne I sat exalted, of riches with a colorful flower coronátus; quísquid támen² flórui félix et beátus, nunc a súmmo crowned; with whatever nevertheless I flourished lucky and happy, now from the top córrui glória privátus. I fell by glory deprived

Fortúne [fortune] róta vólvitur: descéndo [dɛstsɛndo] minorátus; álter in áltum Fortune's wheel turns: I fall diminsihed; one into another

tóllitur; nímis exaltátus rex sédet in vértice [vɛrtitsɛ] cáveat ruínam! is displayed; too much raised a king sits on the summit, let him beware the ruin

nam sub áxe [aksɛ] légimus [lɛgimus] Hécubam [hɛkubam] regínam [rɛginam]. for under the (wheel's) axle we read "Hecuba the queen."

3. VERIS LETA FACIES

Véris léta [leta] fácies [fatsiɛs] múndo propinátur, hiemális [hiɛmalis] of the winter Spring's glad face to the earth toasts. iám [jam] fugátur. In vestítu vário ácies [atsiɛs] vícta Flóra is driven. In garment colorful Flora the sharpness conquered now

principátur [printsipatur], némorum dulcisóno [dultsisomo] que cántu

² Not "énim" as is printed in the parts.

celebrátur [tsɛlɛbratur]. Is celebrated.

Flóre [flore] fúsus grémio Phébus [febus] nóvo móre rísum dat, Flora's pourred into the lap Phoebus in a new manner laughter gives,

hoc [hɔk] vário iám [jam] stipátur³ flóre. Zéphyrus [tsɛfirus] nectáreo spírans by this colorful now Is surrounded by a flower. Zephyrys fragrant blowing

in⁴ odóre; cértatim [tsɛrtatim] pro brávio currámus in amóre. in scent; eagerly for the prize let us compete in love.

Cytharízat [tsitaritsat] cántico dúlcis [dultsis] Philoména [filomena], flóre Sings in a song sweet the nightingale, with flower

rídent vário práta iám [jam] seréna, sálit cétus [tsetus] ávium sílve [silve] per smile colorful fields now bright, hop a flock of birds of the forest through

aména [amena], chórus [kɔrus] prómit vírginum [virginum] iám [jam] the pleasantness, a chorus utters of girls now

gáudia [(here) gaŭdja] milléna. the joys thousands.

5. ECCE GRATUM

Écce [ɛktsɛ] grátum et optátum Ver redúcit [rɛdutsit] gáudia, purpurátum Behold pleasing and longed-for spring brings back joys, purple

flóret prátum, Sol serénat ómnia. lám [jam] iám [jam] cédant [tsɛdant] trístia! blossoms the field, the sun brightens everything. Now let go away sad things

Éstas [estas] rédit, nunc recédit [rɛtsɛdit] Hýemis [hiɛmis] sevítia [sevitsia]. Summer returns, now recedes winter's harshness.

lám [jam] liquéscit [likwɛstsit] et decréscit [dɛcrɛstsit] grándo, nix [niks] etcétera

Now melts and decreases hail, snow and the rest;
[ɛtsɛtɛra]; brúma fúgit [fugit], et iám [jam] súgit [sugit] Ver Estátis [estatis] úbera;

winter flees, and now sinks spring summer's breast;

⁴ May be misprinted "it" in some chorus parts.

³ Not "stipate" as printed in the parts.

ílli mens est mísera, qui nec vívit, nec lascívit [lastsivit] sub Ęstátis [estatis] to this one the mind is unhappy who neither lives nor frolics under summer's déxtera [dɛkstɛra]. right hand.

Gloriántur et letantur [letantur] in mélle dulcédinis [dultsɛdinis], qui conántur, They boast and rejoice in the honey of sweetness, who strive,

ut utántur prémio Cupídinis; símus jússu Cýpridis [tsipridis] gloriántes et to enjoy the prize of Cupid; let us be by the order of Venus boasting and

letántes [letantɛs] páres ésse Páridis. rejoicing equals to be Paris.

7. FLORET SILVA NOBILIS

Flóret sílva nóbilis, flóribus et fóliis. Úbi est antíquus [antikwus] méus amícus?

Blooms the forest noble, with flowers and foliage. Where is former my lover?

Hinc [hiŋk] equitávit [ɛkvitavit], éia [ɛja], quis me amábit? From here he rode away, eja, who me will love?

nax min gəsɛlən ıst mir we Flóret sílva úndique, nah miné gesellen ist mir wê. Blooms the forest on all sides, for my sweetheart is to me pain.

gruonet der walt alenthalben wa ist min geselle alse lange? Der ist geriten Gruonet der walt allenthalben, wâ ist min geselle alse lange? Der ist geriten Grows green the forest everywhere, why is my sweetheart so long away? He has ridden

hinən o wi wer səl mix minən hinnen, o wî, wer səll mich minnen? Away, oh dear, who shall me love?

8. CHRAMER, GIP DIE VARWE MIR

kramər gıp dið farwə mir dið min wɛŋgəl røtə damıt ıx dið juŋgən Chramer, gip die varwe mir, die min wengel roete, damit ich die jungen Shopkeeper, give the color to me, that my cheeks make red, so that I the young

man an ir daŋk dɛr mɪnənliðbə nøtə man an ir dank der minnenliebe noete. man to you thanks the love needs. mīnət tugəntlixə man mīnəklixə frouwen mīnə tut y hox gəmut undə Minnet, tugentliche man, minnecliche frouwen! minne tuot iu hoch gemuot unde

Courting, graceful man, lovely women! love makes you highly noble and

lat yx in hoxən εrən ∫οῦwən lat iuch in hohen eren schouwen. lets you in high respect be seen.

wol dir werlt das du bist also fræydənrixə ix wil dir sin undertan Wol dir, Werlt, daz du bist also freudenriche! ich will dir sin undertan Good for you, world, that you are so rich in pleasures! I will you be obedient

durx din liðbə imar sixarlixa durch din liebe immer sicherliche. through your love always certain.

> sext mix an jungen man lat mix y gefalen Seht mich an, jungen man! lat mich iu gevallen! Look me at, young man! let me you please!

9. REIE

swas hiĕ gat umbe das sınt ales mɛgɛdə diĕ wɛlent an man ale disen Swaz hie gat umbe das sint alles megede, die wellent an man alle disen What here goes around, those are all maidens, they want without a man all this

sumer gan a sla sumer gan! Ah! Sla! summer go!

kumə kum gəselə min ıx enbitə hartə din Chume, chum, geselle min, ih enbite harte din. Come, come, sweetheart my, I await impatiently you.

susər rosənfarwər munt kum unt maxə mix gəsunt Suzer rosenvarwer munt, chum uñ (uñ=und) mache mich gesunt. Sweet rose-colored mouth, come and make me well.

10. WERE DIU WERLT ALLE MIN

were dy werlt ale min fon dem me run tsan den rin des wolt ix mix darben Were diu werlt alle min von dem mer eunz ean den Rin, des wolt ih mih darben,

Were the world all mine from the sea on to the Rhine, that would I from me give up

das dy kynəgin fon engəlant legə an minən armən hei daz diu chünegin von Engellant legə an minən armen. Hei!

that the queen of England lie in my arms.

12. CIGNUS USTUS CANTAT

Míser, míser! módo níger [nigɛr] et ústus fórtiter! Wretched, wretched! just now black and roasted very much!

13. EGO SUM ABBAS

wafna ha ha Wafna!⁵ Ha ha!

14. IN TABERNA QUANDO SUMUS

In tabérna quándo súmus, non curámus quid sit húmus [humus], In the tavern when we are, not we are mindful of what would be the grave sémper insudámus. Quid agátur in tabérna sed ad lúdum properámus, cúi but to gambling we rush, at which always we sweat. What is done in the tavern where númmus est pincérna [pintsɛrna], hoc [hɔk] est ópus ut querátur [kweratur], si quid money is the cup-bearer. lt is necessary to ask, if what lóquar, audiátur. I speak, let it be heard.

Quídam lúdunt, quídam bíbunt, quídam indiscréte vívunt. Sed in lúdo qui Some Gamble, some drink, some indiscreetly live. But in the game who morántur, ex his [his] quídam denudántur quídam íbi vestiúntur, quídam die, from this some are stripped bare some there are clothed, some sáccis [saktsis] induúntur. Íbi núllus tímet mórtem sed pro Báccho [bako] in rags are dressed. There no one fears death but for Bacchus míttunt sórtem. they throw the dice.

Prímo pro nummáta víni, ex hac [hak] bíbunt libertíni; First for the payment of wine, from this drink the libertines; once again bíbunt pro captívis. post hec [hek] bíbunt quáter pro ter pro vívis, they drink for the captives, after this they drink thrice for the living, four times for Christiánis [kristjanis] cúnctis [kuŋktis], quínquies [kwinkwjɛs] pro fidélibus defúnctis five times for the faithful deceased. Christians all,

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⁵ Or [vafna], following the soloist.

[dɛfuŋktis], séxies [sɛksiɛs] pro soróribus vánis, sépties [sɛptsiɛs] pro milítibus silvánis. six times for the sisters vain, seven times for the outlaws of the forest.

Ócties [ɔktsiɛs] pro frátribus pervérsis, nónies [nɔniɛs] pro monáchis [mɔnakis] Eight times for the friars sinning, nine times for the monks

dispérsis, décies [dɛtsjɛs] pro navigántibus, undécies [undɛtsjɛs] pro discortántibus, dispersed, ten times for the sailors, eleven times for those who are angry,

duodécies [dwodɛtsjɛs] pro peniténtibus [penitɛntibus], tredécies [trɛdɛtsjɛs] pro íter twelve times for the repentant, thirteen times for a journey

agéntibus [agɛntibus]. Tam pro pápa quam pro rége [rɛgɛ] bíbunt ómnes those making. Both for the Pope and alike for the king drink all

síne lége [lɛgɛ]. without moderation.

Bíbit héra [hɛra], bíbit hérus [hɛrus], bíbit míles, bíbit clérus, Drinks the wife, drinks the husband, drinks the soldier, drinks the clergyman

bíbit ílle, bíbit ílla, bíbit sérvus cum ancílla [antsila], bíbit vélox [vɛlɔks], drinks he, drinks she, drinks the servant with the maidservant, drinks the energetic,

bíbit píger [piger] bíbit álbus, bíbit níger [niger], bíbit cónstans, bíbit drinks the lazy, drinks the white, drinks the black, drinks the settled, drinks

vágus, bíbit rúdis, bíbit mágus. Bíbit páuper et ęgrótus [egrɔtus], bíbit the roaming, drinks the rough, drinks the scholar. Drinks the poor and the sick, drinks

éxul [εksul] et ignótus [ignɔtus], bíbit púer, bíbit cánus, bíbit pręsul [presul] the exile and the unknown, drinks the boy, drinks the old man, drinks the bishop

et decánus, bíbit sóror, bíbit fráter, bíbit ánus, bíbit máter, and the deacon, drinks the sister, drinks the brother, drinks the old woman, drinks, the mother,

bíbit íste, bíbit ílle, bíbunt céntum [tsɛntum], bíbunt mílle. drinks she, drinks he, drink one hundred, drink one thousand.

Párum sexcénte [sɛkstsɛnte] nummáte dúrant, cum immoderáte bíbunt Hardly six hundred of the coin suffices, when immoderately they drink

ómnes síne méta, quámvis bíbant ménte leta [leta]; sic nos ródunt ómnes all without limit although they drink with a mind happy; thus us slander all

géntes [gɛntɛs], et sic érimus egéntes [ɛgɛntɛs]. Qui nos ródunt confundántur people, and so we should be needy. Who us slander are confounded

et cum iústis non scribántur. Ió [jɔ]! And with the just not are written. Jo!

15. AMOR VOLAT UNDIQUE

Ámor vólat úndique; cáptus est libídine. Júvenes, iuvéncule [juvɛŋkule] Love flies on all sides; captured is desire. Young men, young girls

coniungúntur [kɔnjunguntur] mérito. Fit res amaríssima. are united deservedly. It becomes a fate most bitter.

18. CIRCA MEA PECTORA

Círca [tsirka] méa péctora múlta sunt suspíria. Around my breasts many are the sighs.

Túi lúcent [lutsɛnt] óculi sícut sólis rádii. Your glow eyes as if of the sun rays.

Véllet déus, véllent díi [di], quod ménte propósui. May grant God, may grant the gods, what in my mind I have proposed.

manda liĕt manda liĕt min gəsɛlə komət niĕt

Manda liet, manda liet, min geselle chŏmet niet.

my sweetheart comes not.

19. SI PUER CUM PUELLULA

Si púer cum puéllula moráretur in céllula [tsɛlula], felix If a boy with a girl should delay in a little room, happy (is)

coniúnctio [kɔnjuŋktsiɔ]. Amóre suscrescénte [suskrɛstsɛntɛ]. Avúlso⁶ prócul the union. Love increasing. Removed after

tędio [tedio], fit lúdus ineffábilis mémbris, lacértis [latsɛrtis], lábiis. Wearniness, it becomes a pleasure inexpressible limbs, muscles, lips.

20.VENI, VENI, VENIAS

Véni, vénias, ne me móri fácias [fatsias], Come, come, may you come, not me to die make

⁶ Perhaps "propúlso" as is given in Judith Sebesta's book.

hýrca [hirka], hýrce [hirtsɛ], nazáza [nadzadza], trilirívos!

Púlchra tíbi fácies [fatsiɛs] oculórum ácies [atsiɛs], capillórum séries, Beautiful your face of the eyes glance, of the hair braiding,

o quam clára spécies [spɛtsiɛs]! Rósa rubicúndior, lílio candídior, ómnibus oh how lovely sight! Than a rose more rosy, than a lily more fair, than all

formósior, sémper in te glórior! prettier, always in you I glory!

22. TEMPUS ES IOCUNDUM

Témpus est iocúndum, o vírgines [virginɛs], módo congaudéte [kɔŋgaŭdɛtɛ] The season is pleasing, oh maidens, just now rejoice

vos iúvenes. you youths.

Méa me confórtat promíssio, méa me depórtat negátio [nɛgatsiɔ]. My me delights yielding, my me displeases denial.

Témpore brumáli vir pátiens [patsiɛns] ánimo vernáli lascíviens [lastsiviɛns]. In the time of winter man quiet with the spirit of spring frolicking.

Méa mécum lúdit virgínitas [virginitas], méa me detrúdit simplícitas [simplitsitas]. My with me teases virginity, my me drives away innocense.

Véni, domicélla [dɔmitsɛla], cum gáudio, véni, véni, púlchra, iám péreo. Come, little misstress, with joy, cone, cone, beauty, now I die.

Oh, oh, oh, tótus flóreo, iám amóre virgináli [virginali] tótus árdeo, nóvus ámor est. Oh, oh, oh, all I bloom, now with love of a girl all I burn, new love is.

- ... quo péreo.
- ... by which I die.

24. AVE FORMOSISSIMA

Áve formosíssima gémma [gɛma] pretiósa [prɛtsiɔsa], áve décus vírginum [virginum],

Hail prettiest gem precious, hail glory of women,

vírgo gloriósa, áve múndi lúminar, áve múndi rósa, maiden glorious, hail of the world light, hail of the world rose.

Blánziflor [blantsɪflɔr] et Hélena [hɛlɛna], Vénus generósa [gɛnɛrɔsa]! Blanziflor and Helena, Venus noble!

PRONUNCIATION GUIDE FOR SINGING THE GERMAN TEXT OF CARMINA BURANA

VOWELS (IPA symbols) 1.

	Front Vowels (from closed to open)
[i]	is pronounced like the "ee" in see; "closed i"
[I]	is pronounced like the "i" in sit; "open i"
[e]	is pronounced like the "a" in say [seĭ] but without the final "y" [ɪ];
	"closed e"
[3]	is pronounced like the "e" in set; "open e"
[a]	is pronounced like the "a" in French or Italian la or the first part of the diphthong in
	English high [haĭ]; "front a"
	Back Vowels (from closed to open)
[u]	is pronounced like the "oo" in soon; "closed u"
[ʊ]	is pronounced like the "u" in put; "open u"
[o]	is pronounced like the "o" in obey; it must not have a final [u] glide;
	"closed o"
[c]	is pronounced like the "aw" in saw; "open o"
	Central Vowel
[ə]	is pronounced in conversation like the "a" in sofa; "schwa." In lyric German diction
	this vowel must be brought forward to the tongue position of $[\epsilon]$ and covered (rounded
	slightly); it is not rounded as far as for [ce].
	Rounded Vowels
[y]	is pronounced like [i] with the lip-rounding of [u]; like French "u"
[_Y]	is pronounced like $[I]$ with the lip-rounding of $[U]$; (does not exist in French)
[ø]	is pronounced like [e] with the lip-rounding of [o]; like French long "oe"
[œ]	is pronounced like $[\epsilon]$ with the lip-rounding of $[\mathfrak{d}]$; like French short "oe"
GLIDE SYMBOL (IPA symbol)	

2.

[j] is pronounced like the "y" in yes

DIPHTHONGS (as written in the Middle High German text) 3.

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ei = [\epsilon i], e.g., hei [h\epsilon i]
ie = [i\check{e}], e.g., die [di\check{e}]
uo = [v\check{o}], e.g., tuot [tv\check{o}t]
ou = [o\check{v}], e.g., frouwen [fro\check{v}wən]
eu = [œˇy], e.g., freudenriche [fræˇydənrıxə]
oe = [\emptyset] and iu = [y], i.e., they are not diphthongs, but the Middle High German symbols for long
          umlauted vowels; e.g., roete [røtə], diu [dy]
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CONSONANTS (as written in the Middle High German text) 4.

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w = [w] not [v] as in modern German, e.g., werlt [wɛrlt]
v = [f], e.g., varwe [farwɛ]
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r = [r] Even though "r" is pronounced with a uvular trill in conversational German, a flip or trill of the tip of the tongue that characterizes the "r" of Italian and Latin is always used in lyric German diction. (This sound is much like the British (Gilbert and Sullivan) pronunciation of: "veRy, veRy, meRRy.")

ng = [ŋg] like the "ng" in English finger, e.g., junger [juŋgər]

s = [s], never [z] as in modern German, e.g., geselle [gəsɛlə], e.g., seht [sɛxt]

ich = [IX] [X] is a raspy sound formed in the back of the mouth that is pronounced like the "ch" in Scottish loch; it is never pronounded [IQ] as in Modern German, e.g., mich [mIX]

h (initial) = [h], e.g., hinnen [hɪnən]
ch (initial) = [k], e.g., chramer [kramər]
h/ch (all other positions) = [x], e.g., hohen [hɔxən]
z (after a consonant) = [ts], e.g., unze [untsə]
z (all other positions) = [s], e.g., swaz [swas]

3. REFERENCES

McGee, Timothy J., with A.G. Rigg and David N. Klausner. Singing Early Music: The Pronunciation of European Languages in the Late Middle Ages and Renaissance, Indiana University Press, 1996; Chapter 15 by Peter Frenzel, pp. 219-242.

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PRONUNCIATION GUIDE FOR SINGING THE LATIN TEXT OF CARMINA BURANA

1. LATIN VOWELS [as in Italianate Latin]

a is pronounced like the "a" in French or Italian la [a]; "front a"

E.g., luna [luna], vana [vana]

e is pronounced like the "e" in set $[\varepsilon]$; "open e"

E.g., velut [vɛlut], semper [sɛmpɛr]

i and y are pronounced like the "ee" in see [i]

E.g., vita [vita], Zephyrus [tsɛfirus]

o is pronounced like the "aw" in saw [o], "open o"

E.g., ludo [ludo], rota [rota]

u is pronounced like the "oo" in soon [u]

E.g., luna [luna], tunc [tunk]

u in the combination qu is pronounced [w]

E.g., que [kwε], quisquid [kwiskwid]

2. LATIN GLIDE

i/j is pronounced like the "y" in yes [j] E.g., iam [jam], io [jɔ]

3. LATIN CONSONANTS [as in Germanic Latin]

The consonants b, d, f, k l, m, n, p, s, t and v are pronounced as in English.

c before the vowels a (but not ae), o, u; before other consonants (including the combination initial ch); and at the end of a word is pronounced like the "k" in keep [k]

E.g., crescis [krɛstsis], nunc [nuŋk], chorus [kɔrus]

c before the vowels e, i, y, ae, oe and eu is pronounced like the "ts" in cats [ts]

E.g., ocellis [otselis], centum [tsentum]

g is always pronounced like the "g" in give [g]

E.g., tangite [tangits], legimus [legimus]

gn is pronounced as g+n

E.g., ignotus [ignotus]

n followed by c or g is pronounced like the "ng" in sing [ŋ]

E.g., tangite [tangits], plango [plango]

h is pronounce [h] except in the word mihi/michi where it is pronounced [k]

E.g., hora [hora], mihi/michi [miki]

ph is pronounced [f]

E.g., Zephyrus [tsɛfirus]

q is pronounced [k]

E.g., que [kwε], quisquid [kwiskwid]

r is rolled when it occurs at the beginning of a word; it is lightly flipped when it occurs in the middle or at the end of a word. (The non-initial sound is much like the British, Gilbert and Sullivan pronunciation of: "veRy, veRy, meRRy.")

E.g., rota [rota], dorsum [dorsum], semper [semper]

s between vowels is pronounced like the "s" in sing [s], never like the "z" in zebra [z]

E.g., dulcisono [dultsisono], fusus [fusus]

sc after a vowel and before the vowels e, i, y, ae, oe and eu is pronounced [sts]

E.g., crescis [crɛstsis], lascivit [lastsivit]

sc initial, is pronounced [ts]

E.g., sceleris [tsɛlɛris]

th is pronounced [t]

E.g., Cytharizat [tsitaritsat]

- ti when followed by a vowel and preceded by any letter except s, t or x is pronounced [tsi] E.g., patiens [patsiens], octies [ɔktsies]
- ti when followed by a vowel and preceded by s, t or x or when followed by a consonant is pronounced [ti]

E.g., salutis [salutis]

x is pronounced [ks]

E.g., axe [aks ϵ], rex [r ϵ ks]

z is pronounced [ts]

E.g. Zephirus [tsɛfirus]

4. REFERENCES

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