

In Rama sonat gemitus

Edited by Thomas R. Vozzella
From the Wolfenbüttel 677 collection

The musical score consists of five staves of music for a single voice. The music is in common time, with a key signature of one flat. The vocal line features a mix of eighth and sixteenth-note patterns, with several grace notes indicated by small vertical strokes above the main note heads. Measure numbers 11 through 14 are visible above the staves. The lyrics, written below the music, describe the exile of Thomas à Becket and the lamentation of his wife, Rachel.

11 In Ra - ma so - nat ge - tus, plo - ran - te Ra - chel

12 Ang - li - e: He - ro - dis nam - que ge - ni - tus dat ip - sam ig - no -

13 mi - ni - e. En ei - us pri - mo - gen - i - tus, - et

14 Jo - seph Can - tu - a - ri - e, Ex - ul at fis - to

15 ven - di - tus, e - gip - tum co - lit Gal - li - e.

Translation

Song on the exile of Thomas à Becket, Archbishop of Canterbury, 1164.

A lamentation is heard in Rama:
England's Rachel weeps.
For one begotten by Herod treats her with ignominy.
Her firstborn
Joseph of Canterbury
is exiled as if sold, and lives in the Egypt of France.