

## Carmina Burana

### "O Fortuna"

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1. Fortuna Imperatrix Mundi (Fortune, Empress of the World)

O Fortuna (Chorus) O Fortune

O Fortuna O Fortune,  
velut lunae like the moon  
statu variabilis, you are changeable,  
semper crescisever waxing  
aut decrescis;and waning;  
vita detestabilis hateful life  
nunc obduratfirst oppresses  
et tunc curat and then soothes  
ludo mentis aciem,as fancy takes it;  
egestatem,poverty  
potestatemand power  
dissolvit ut glaciem. it melts them like ice.

Sors immanisFate - monstrous  
et inanis,and empty,  
rota tu volubilis,you whirling wheel,  
status malus, you are malevolent,  
vana saluswell-being is vain  
semper dissolubilis,and always fades to nothing,  
obumbrata shadowed  
et velata and veiled  
michi quoque niteris; you plague me too;  
nunc per ludumnow through the game  
dorsum nudumI bring my bare back  
fero tui sceleris.to your villainy.

Sors salutisFate is against me  
et virtutis in health  
michi nunc contraria, and virtue,  
est affectusdriven on  
et defectus and weighted down,  
semper in angaria.always enslaved.  
Hac in hora So at this hour  
sine mora without delay  
corde pulsum tangite; pluck the vibrating strings;  
quod per sortem since Fate  
sternit fortem, strikes down the string man,  
mecum omnes plangite! everyone weep with me!

## 2. Fortune plango vulnera (I bemoan the wounds of Fortune)

Fortune plango vulnera I bemoan the wounds of Fortune  
stillantibus oculis with weeping eyes,  
quod sua michi munera for the gifts she made me  
subtrahit rebellis. she perversely takes away.  
Verum est, quod legitur, It is written in truth,  
fronte capillata, that she has a fine head of hair,  
sed plerumque sequitur but, when it comes to seizing  
an opportunity  
Occasio calvata. she is bald.

In Fortune solio On Fortune's throne  
sederam elatus, I used to sit raised up,  
prosperitatis vario crowned with  
flore coronatus; the many-coloured flowers of  
prosperity;  
quicquid enim flori though I may have flourished  
felix et beatus, happy and blessed,  
nunc a summo corruui now I fall from the peak  
gloria privatus. deprived of glory.

Fortune rota volvitur: The wheel of Fortune turns;  
descendo minoratus; I go down, demeaned;  
alter in altum tollitur; another is raised up;  
nimis exaltatus far too high up  
rex sedet in vertice sits the king at the summit -  
caveat ruinam! let him fear ruin!  
nam sub axe legimus for under the axis is written  
Hecubam reginam. Queen Hecuba.

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