

O stelliferi conditor orbis (I:5)

Boethius praises God's harmonious ordering of the universe (lines 1-24), complains about Fortune's rule over human affairs (lines 25-41), and concludes with a supplication (lines 42-48)

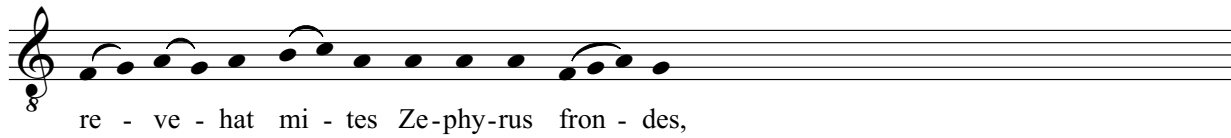
O stel - li - fe - ri con - di - tor or - bis, qui per - pe - tu - o ni - xus so - li - o
 ra - pi - do cae - lum tur - bi - ne ver - sas le - gem - que pa - ti si - de - ra co - gis,
 5 ut nunc ple - no lu - ci - da cor - nu to - tis fra - tris ob - vi - a flam - mis
 con - dat stel - las lu - na mi - no - res,
 nunc ob - scu - ro pal - li - da cor - nu Phoe - bo pro - pri - or lu - mi - na per - dat
 10 et qui pri - mae tem - po - re noc - tis a - git al - gen - tes He - spe - ros or - tus
 so - li - tas i - te - rum mu - tet ha - be - nas Phoe - bi pal - lens Lu - ci - fer or - tu!
 14 Tu fron - di - flu - ae fri - go - re bru - mae strin - gis lu - cem bre - vi - o - re mo - ra;
 tu cum fer - vi - da ve - ne - rit aes - tas a - gi - les noc - ti di - vi - dis ho - ras.

Creator of the
 starry firmament,
 who, enthroned on
 your everlasting seat,
 turn the heavens in
 rapid rotation
 and compel stars
 to follow your law,
 so that now, shining
 with full brightness,
 reflecting all her
 brother's light,
 the moon hides
 the lesser stars,
 now pale, nearer to the
 sun with her brightness
 obscured, she loses
 her radiance,
 and he who as the
 evening star at the
 first hour of the night
 made frosty dawn rise,
 changes his usual course
 again, as the
 morning star dims
 at the rising of the sun!
 You in the coldness of
 leaf-shedding winter
 compress daylight
 into a shorter time;
 you, when fiery
 summer comes,
 apportion the swift
 hours of night.



Tu - a vis var-ri-um tem-pe - rat an - num, ut quas Bo-re - ae spi-ri - tus au - fert

Your power tempers
the varied year,
so that leaves swept
away by gusts of the
north wind



re - ve - hat mi - tes Ze-phy-rus fron - des,

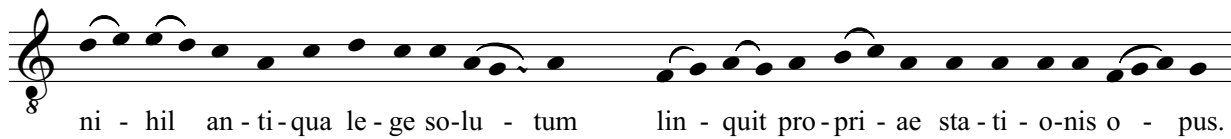
are borne back by the
gentle west wind,

21



quae-que Arc-tu - rus se-mi-na vi - dit Si - ri - us al - tas u - rat se - ge - tes:

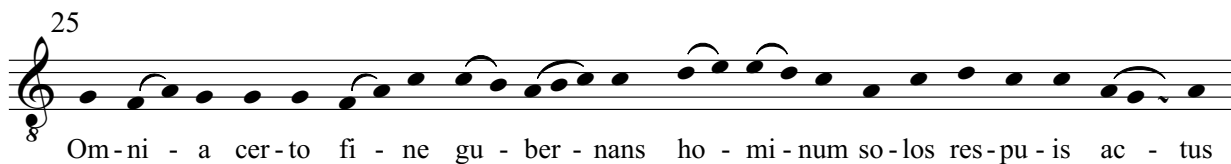
and seeds seen
by Arcturus are
scorched by Sirius
as tall crops:



ni - hil an - ti-qua le - ge so-lu - tum lin - quit pro-pri - ae sta - ti - o-nis o - pus.

nothing bound
by your ancient law
escapes the duty
of its allotted station.

25



Om-ni - a cer-to fi - ne gu - ber - nans ho - mi - num so-los res-pu - is ac - tus

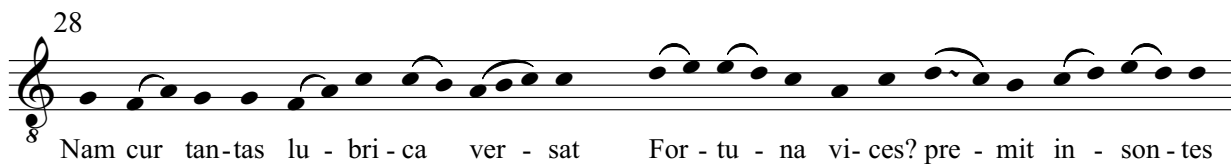
Governing all things
with sure purpose,
it is only men's deeds
that you, ruler,



me - ri - to rec - tor co - hi - be-re mo - do.

refuse to
restrain justly.

28



Nam cur tan-tas lu - bri-ca ver - sat For - tu - na vi - ces? pre - mit in - son - tes

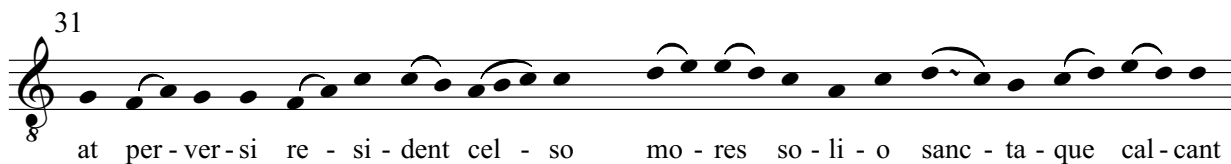
For why does slimy
Fortune overturn
so many fates?
Harmful punishment



de - bi - ta sce - le-ri no - xi - a poe - na,

due to criminals is
meted out to the
innocent,

31



at per-ver-si re - si - dent cel - so mo - res so - li - o sanc - ta - que cal - cant


the ways of the
corrupt abide in high
places, and in an
unjust turn the
wicked trample



in - ius - ta vi - ce col - la no - cen - tes.

on the necks of
the saintly.

34



La - tet ob - scu - ris con - di - ta vir - tus cla - ra te - ne - bris ius - tus - que tu - lit
 cri - men in - i - qui.

Brilliant virtue remains hidden in obscure darkness and the just man bears the crime of the wicked.


37



Nil pe - ri - u - ri - a, nil no - cet ip - sis fraus men - da - ci com - pta co - lo - re,
 sed cum li - bu - it vi - ri - bus u - ti,

No perjury, no fraud composed with deceitful appearance harms them but when it pleases them,


40



quos in - nu - me - ri me - tu - unt po - pu - li sum - mos gau - dent sub - de - re re - ges.


whom innumerable people fear, these men take pleasure in bringing low the greatest kings.

42




O iam mi - se - ras re - spi - ce ter - ras, quis - quis re - rum foe - de - ra nec - tis!

Now look down on this wretched earth, whoever binds the bonds of state!




o - pe - ris tan - ti pars non vi - lis ho - mi - nes qua - ti - mur for - tu - nae sa - lo.

A vile part of so great a work should not harry men adrift on Fortune's sea.



Ra - pi - dos, rec - tor, com - pri - me fluc - tus et quo cae - lum re - gis im - men sum

Ruler, check the rushing waves, And as you rule the boundless heavens,



fir - ma sta - bi - les foe - de - re ter - ras!

create stable lands with your law!