

Lugebat David Absalon

*Lugebat David Absalon, pius pater filium, tristis senex puerum:
heu me, fili mi Absalom, quis mihi det ut moriar, ut ego pro te moriar, O fili mi Absalom.
Rex autem David filium, cooperto flebat capite: Quis mihi det ut moriar, O fili mi, O fili mi.*

Porro rex operuit caput suum, et clamabat voce magna: fili mi Absalom, O fili mi.

David was mourning Absalom, a devoted father for his son, a sorrowful old man for a child:
alas, my son Absalom, would God I had died for thee, O my son Absalom.
King David, covering his head, wept for his son: would God I had died for thee, O my son, O my son.

And the king covered his head and cried out in a loud voice: my son Absalom, O my son.

(2 Samuel 18:33 and 19:4)

Nicolas Gombert (ca.1495-ca.1560)
edited by Richard Shakeshaft

The musical score is arranged in eight staves. The vocal parts are: Soprano I (Cantus Secundus), Soprano II (Discantus), Alto I (Altus), Alto II (Altus Secundus), Tenor I (Tenor Secundus), Tenor II (Tenor), Bass I (Bassus), and Bass II (Bassus Secundus). The score is in G major (one sharp) and 4/2 time. The vocal lines are mostly whole notes, with some half notes. The keyboard part is in the right hand, with a few notes in the left hand. The lyrics 'Lu - ge - bat Da - vid' are written under the Soprano II staff, and 'Lu -' is written under the Tenor II staff.