

Je n'ose plus

Alla quinta bassa

Josquin Desprez (? ca 1450 - Condé-sur-l'Escaut 1521)

The image displays a musical score for the piece 'Je n'ose plus' by Josquin Desprez. The score is written for a single melodic line and a lute-style accompaniment, using a grand staff with a treble clef and a bass clef. The key signature is one flat (B-flat), and the time signature is common time (C). The score is divided into six systems, each beginning with a measure number: 9, 18, 26, 34, 41, and 49. The notation includes various note values (minims, crotchets, quavers), rests, and accidentals. Brackets are used to indicate colored breves, which are noted as half the value of the original manuscript. The piece concludes with a double bar line at the end of the sixth system.

I edited this piece from a microfilm of the ms. Florence BN Magl. XIX 178, fol 35 v- 36. The original is a fifth higher, with clefs G2, C3 and C4. So the piece should presumably be played a fifth down, and in this way I made this alternative version. The note values have been halved.

I indicated colored breves by brackets. The ms. is not consequent in using them, for pointed semibreves are used as well, presumably without difference with colored breves.

The ms. leaves space for the initials J of Je n'ose plus and for the T en C of Tenor and Contra.

NJE includes it as nr 27.19, and considers it for stylistic grounds as authentic, though the manuscript contains several pieces wrongly ascribed to Josquin.