



Database Catalogue Online

Searching for Old Music

Scaling mountains of data

Jennifer Thomas, School of Music

The motet, 1475-1600

- Innovative
- Prominent
- Expressive
- Historical witness
- Beautiful

How many?

- 10s of 1000s
- My current data
 - 50,256 records
- Future data—double
 - Single composer prints
 - Missing manuscripts and anthologies

Indexes

- Habits
- Possibilities

Marguerite and Katherine

- A motet manuscript conveys a personal message
- London Royal 8.G.vii



*Absalon,
fili mi
in
LonBLR
8.G.vii*



B falon fili mi, fili mi Ab falon fili
 mi Ab fa lon fili mi Ab falon ii
 fili mi Ab fa lon fili mi Ab fa lon, Ab
 falon fili mi, Quis det ut mo ri ar pro
 te fili mi Ab falon, nō uiam ul trau tra

Norms and aberrations

- *Dulces exuviae*
- Authorship
- Political messages
- Religious and social practices
- Patronage
- Popularity

The Internet and the Academy

- Usefulness
- Exposure

Perks

- Immediate
- Flexible
- Free to users
- Powerful

Pitfalls

- Open-ended
- Limited payback
- Tedium

Possibilities

- Crowd-sourcing
- Heir apparent
- Aggregate projects
- Satellite