

LANGUAGE FAIR 2026
UNIVERSITY OF MEMPHIS
POETRY RECITATION
Level 1

From the famous Carmina Burana [Full Latin title: *Carmina Burana: Cantiones profanæ cantoribus et choris cantandæ comitantibus instrumentis atque imaginibus magicis*].

Since Carmina Burana is also a scenic cantata composed by Carl Orff, the participant can sing (or just recite) the following verses.

Ecce gratum (a spring song)

Ecce gratum
et optatum
Ver reducit gaudia,
purpuratum
floret pratum,
Sol serenat omnia.
Iam iam cedant tristia
Aestas redit,
nunc recedit
Hyemis saevitia.

Behold, the pleasant
and longed-for
spring brings back joyfulness,
violet flowers
fill the meadows,
the sun brightens everything,
sadness is now at an end!
Summer returns,
now withdraw
the rigors of winter.