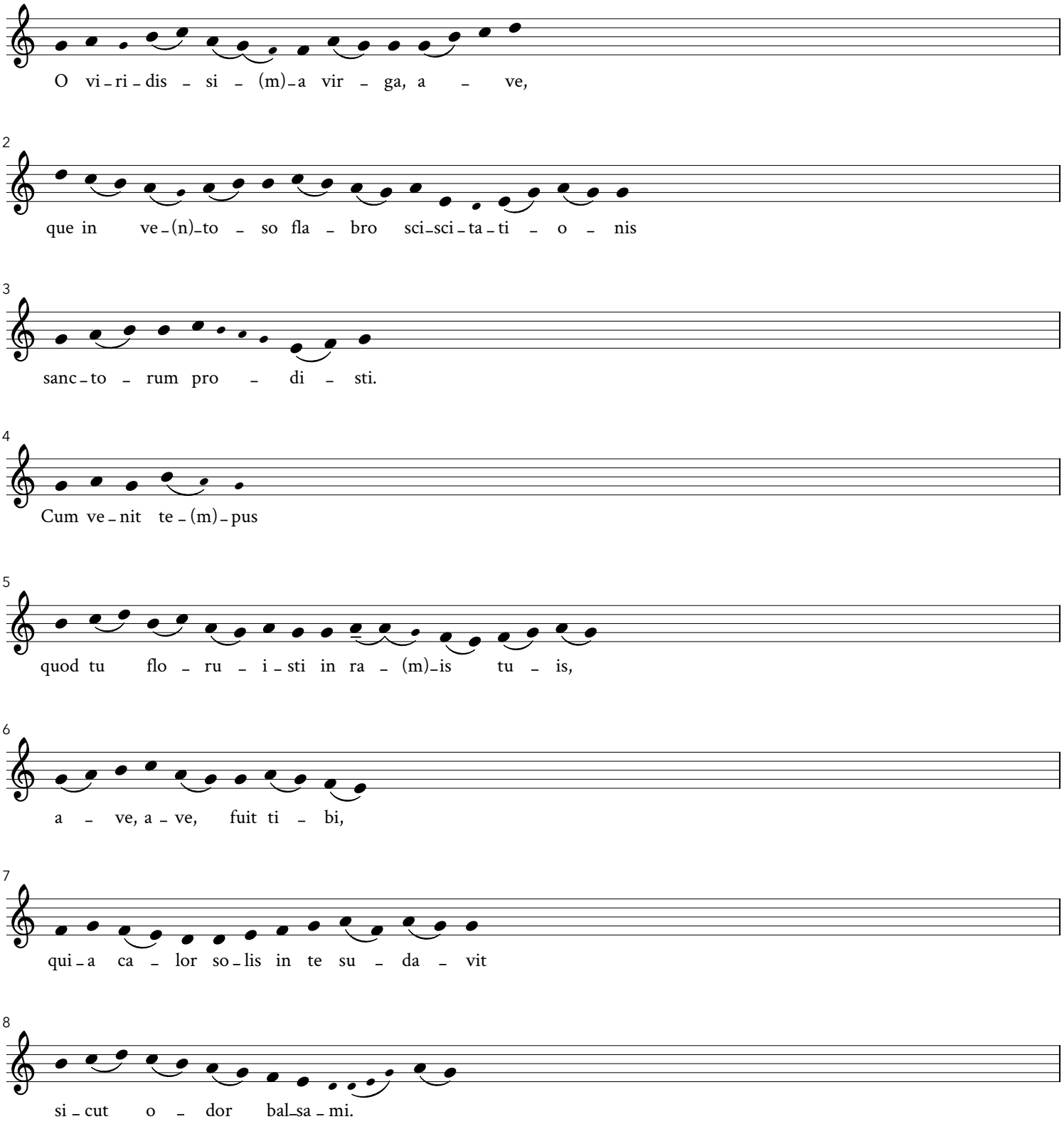
O viridissima virga

Song to the Virgin

Transcribed by Allison Mondel

Hildegard von Bingen (1098-1179)

R f. 474r



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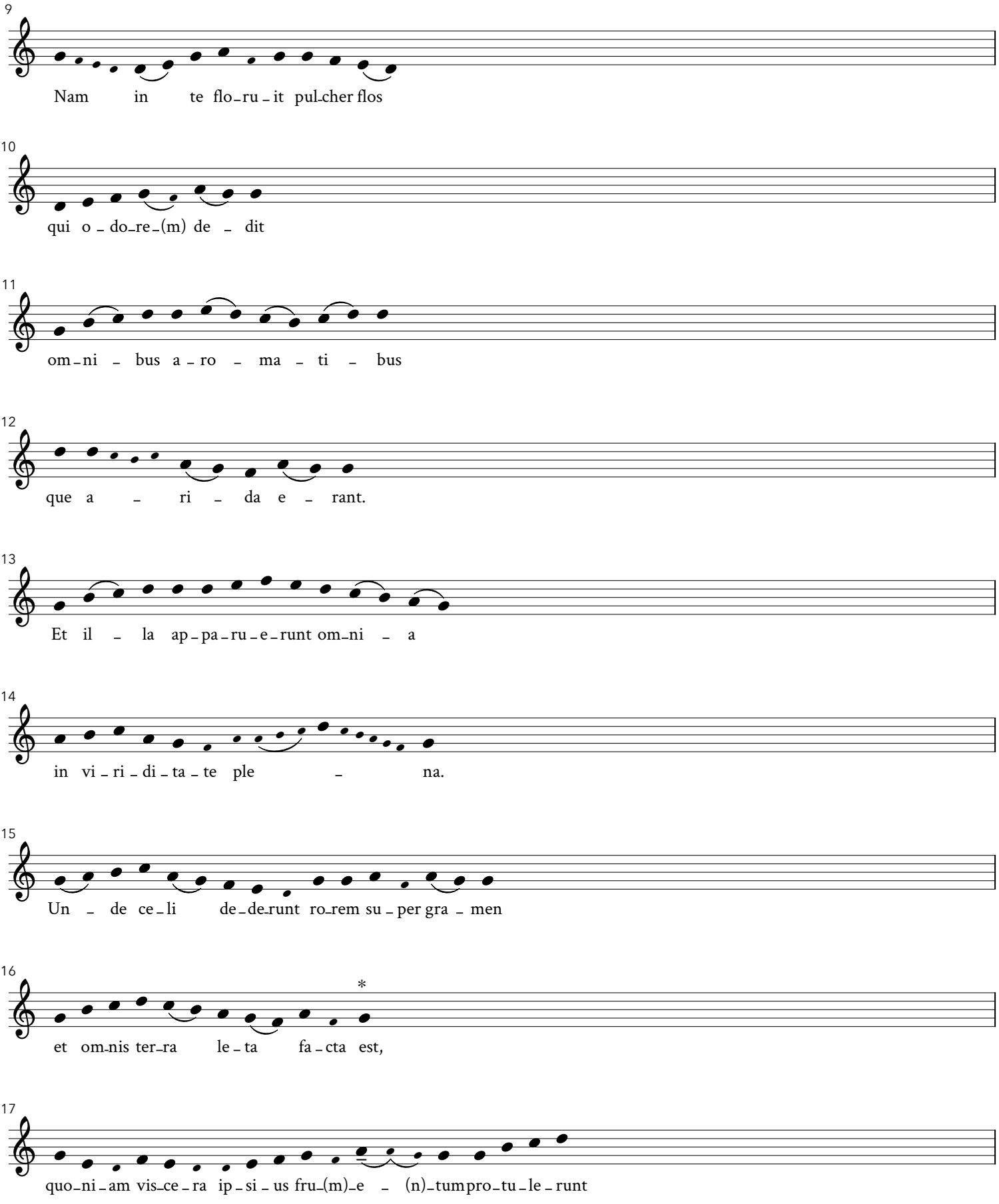

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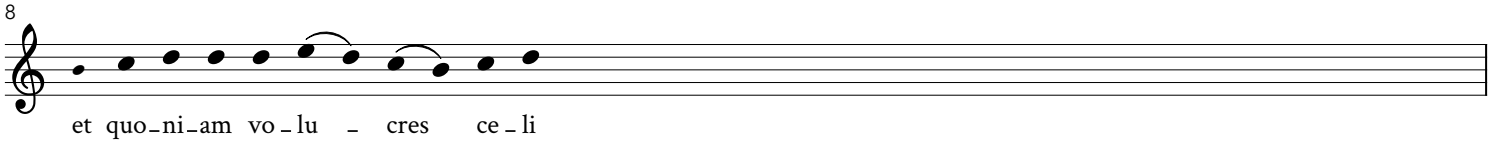

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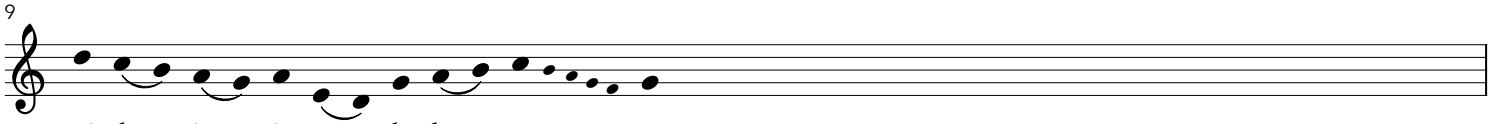

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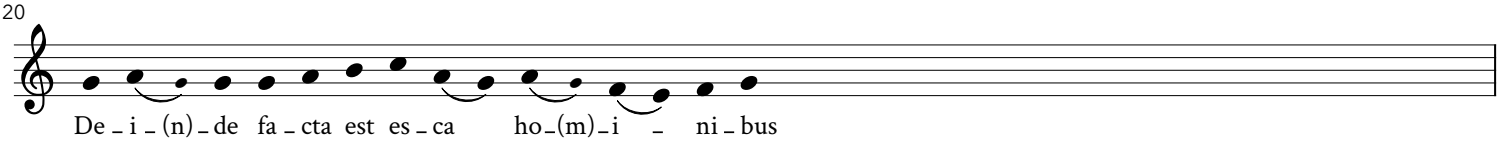

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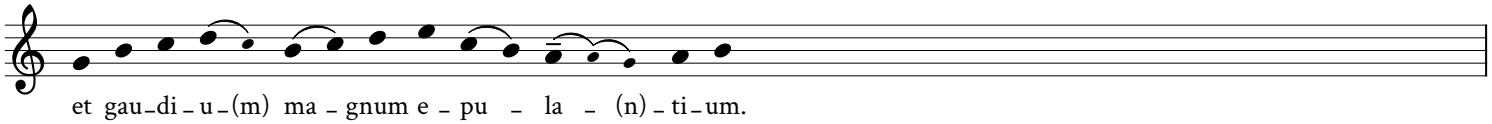

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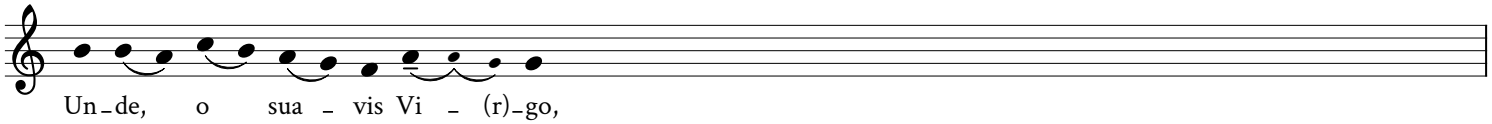

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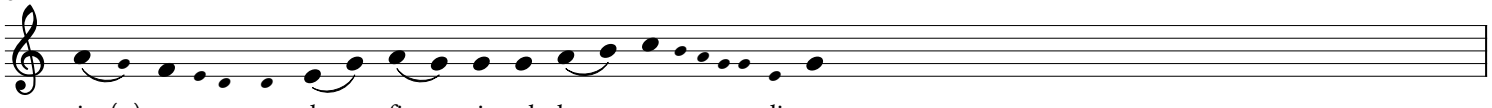
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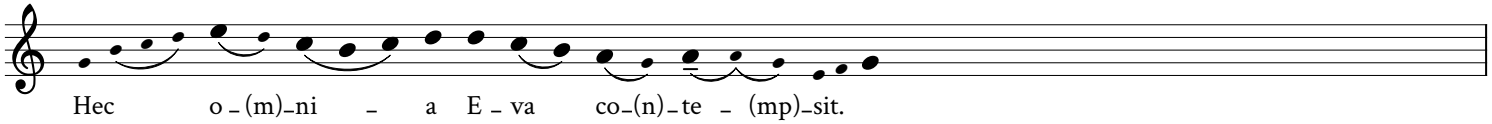

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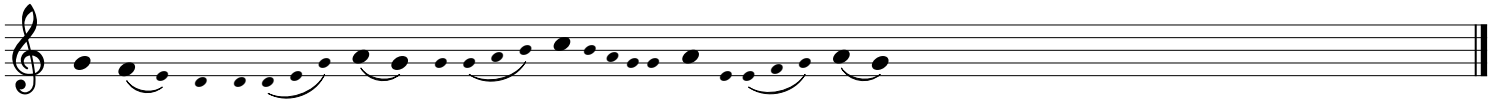
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O viridissima virga, ave,
que in ventoso flabro sciscitationis
sanctorum prodisti.

Hail! O greenest branch
that went forth in the windy gusts
of the saints' discernment.

Cum venit tempus
quod tu floruisti in ramis tuis,
ave, ave fuit tibi,
quia calor solis in te sudavit
sicut odor balsami.

When the time came
for you to blossom on your branches,
"Hail! Hail!" was said to you,
because the heat of the sun produced sweat
like the fragrance of balsam on you.

Nam in te floruit pulcher flos
qui odorem dedit
omnibus aromatibus
que arida erant.

For in you a beautiful flower bloomed,
which gave scent
to all the spices
which were dry.

Et illa apparuerunt omnia
in viriditate plena.

And they all appeared
in full freshness.

Unde celi dederunt rorem super gramen
et omnis terra leta facta est,
quoniam viscera ipsius frumentum protulerunt
et quoniam volucres celi
nidos in ipsa habuerunt.

Whence the heavens poured dew over the grass
and the whole earth was made happy
since its womb produced grain
and since the birds of the sky
had nests on it.

Deinde facta est esca hominibus
et gaudium magnum epulantium.
Unde, o suavis Virgo,
in te non deficit ullum gaudium.

From there food for humans was made,
and the great joy of banqueters.
Whence, o sweet Virgin,
no joy is lacking in you.

Hec omnia Eva contempsit.

All these things Eve scorned.

Nunc autem laus sit Altissimo.

But now let there be praise to the Most High.

Latin translation by Hugh McElroy
For notation guide, resources, community, and more, visit: eyamedievalmusic.org

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