

*Miraris mundum / Cancer cancrisat*

ANONYMOUS

This piece appears on a broadsheet printed in Prague in 1589 by Jiří Nigrin (see page 4). The outer four parts are printed in table book format. In the centre of the page, the Alto II part is written anticlockwise around a roundel, with its text (a mixture of Czech and Latin) in mirror-writing. Within the circle appears, written on an image of a crab carrying the world on its back, the Alto I part, a five-note *ostinato* with the text, also mirrored, *Cancer cancrisat*.



*S. I*  
 Mi- ra- ris mun- dum, mi- ra- ris mun- dum, mi- ra-

*S. II*  
 Mi- ra- ris mun- dum, mi- ra- ris mun- dum, mi- ra-

*A. I & II*  
*I.*  
 Can- cer can- cri-

*T.*  
 Mi- ra- ris mun- dum, mi- ra- ris mun- dum, mi-

*B.*  
 Mi- ra- ris mun- dum, mi- ra- ris mun- dum, mi-

ris mun- dum, mi- ra- ris mun- dum, mun- dum dor- so con- si- ste- re

ris mun- dum, mi- ra- ris mun- dum, mun- dum dor- so con- si- ste- re can- cri,

*I.*  
 sat. Svět se to- či rov- ně ja- ko ko- lo; *II.*  
 Can- cer can-

ra- ris mun- dum, mi- ra- ris mun- dum, mun- dum dor- so con- si- ste- re can-

ra- ris mun- dum, mi- ra- ris mun- dum dor- so con- si- ste- re can- cri,

**Source:** Krákovská kanonie premonstrátů na Stravhově, DR I 21  
 Transposed up a minor 3<sup>rd</sup>. Note values halved.

**Translation:**

S1, S2, T, B: Are you surprised at the world on a crab's back? Desist: this is the way the globe is turned nowadays.

A1: The world revolves like a wheel, therefore look to have a good friend. Many things go from Friday, for many things in the world go backwards; they go backwards for the worse and not for the better.

A2: The crab goes backwards.

§ S1, bar 4: A-flat (as transposed) in source.

11

can- cri, con- si- ste- re can- cri,  
 con- si- ste- re can- cri, con- si- ste- re can- cri, con-  
*I.*  
 cri- sat. Pro- tož při- te- le hled' mít' do- bré- ho.  
 cri, con- si- ste- re can- cri, con- si- ste- re can- cri, con- si- ste- re  
 con- si- ste- re can- cri, con- si- ste- re can- cri, con- si- ste- re

15

con- si- ste- re can- cri, con- si- ste- re can- cri?  
 si- ste- re can- cri, con- si- ste- re can- cri? De- si- ne, de- si- ne,  
*II.* *I.*  
 Can- cer can- cri- sat. Mul- ta va- dunt cum fe- ri- a  
 can- cri, con- si- ste- re can- cri, con- si- ste- re can- cri? De- si-  
 can- cri, con- si- ste- re can- cri? De- si- ne, de- si- ne, de- si- ne,

19

De- si- ne, de- si- ne, de- si- ne, de- si- ne, de- si- ne, de- si- ne, sic ho- di- e  
 se- xta, *II.* *I.*  
 Can- cer can- cri- sat. Neb mno- hé vù- ci  
 ne, de- si- ne, de- si- ne, de- si- ne, de- si- ne, de- si- ne, de- si- ne, de- si- ne,  
 ne, de- si- ne, de- si- ne, de- si- ne, de- si- ne, de- si- ne, de- si- ne, de- si- ne, de- si- ne,

\* T, bar 14: Source has two crotchets (after halving values) on "-ste-re"

† S1, bar 22: Source has quaver and two crotchets (after halving values) on "-ne, de- si-"

24

ne sic ho-di-e ver-ti-tur or-bis i-ter, ver-ti-tur or-bis

ver-ti-tur or-bis i-ter, ver-ti-tur or-bis

jdou v svě-tě zpát-kem. *II.* Can-cer can-cri-

ne sic ho-di-e ver-ti-tur or-bis i-ter, ver-ti-tur or-bis

ne sic ho-di-e ver-ti-tur or-bis i-ter, ver-ti-tur or-

28

i-ter, ver-ti-tur or-bis i-ter, ver-ti-tur or-bis i-

i-ter, ver-ti-tur or-bis i-ter, or-bis i-

*I.* sat. Re-tro ce-dunt in de-te-ri-o-ra, *II.* Can-

i-ter, ver-ti-tur or-bis i-ter,

bis, ver-ti-tur or-bis i-ter, ver-ti-tur or-bis

32

- ter, or-bis i-ter.

ter, ver-ti-tur or-bis i-ter, or-bis i-ter.

cer can-cri-sat. *I. et non me-li-o-ra.*

ver-ti-tur or-bis i-ter.

i-ter, ver-ti-tur or-bis i-ter.

‡ S2, bar 26: Source has G (as transposed).

