

Chant Hypertexts Prosulas

Medieval Chant and Digital Technology

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Chants, Hypertexts, Prosulas is a companion website for my forthcoming book (by the same title) on prosulas in medieval southern Italy. This repertory is significant because it allows us to detect the many **multicultural influences** of a region in which **Byzantines, Lombards, Normans, Franks, Jews, and Muslim** were present at different times and with different political roles. **Nuns**, were active participants in this musical and liturgical production.

What are **prosulas**? Prosulas are **short texts** that were added to pre-existing melismas (long melodies) of chants for the liturgy of mass and office between, primarily, the tenth and the fourteenth centuries. These small texts add new content to the chant and change its style. The example on the right shows how the melody on the word "**alleluia**" is reworked by adding a new text "**Allevatus dominus.**" Notice the textual assonance.

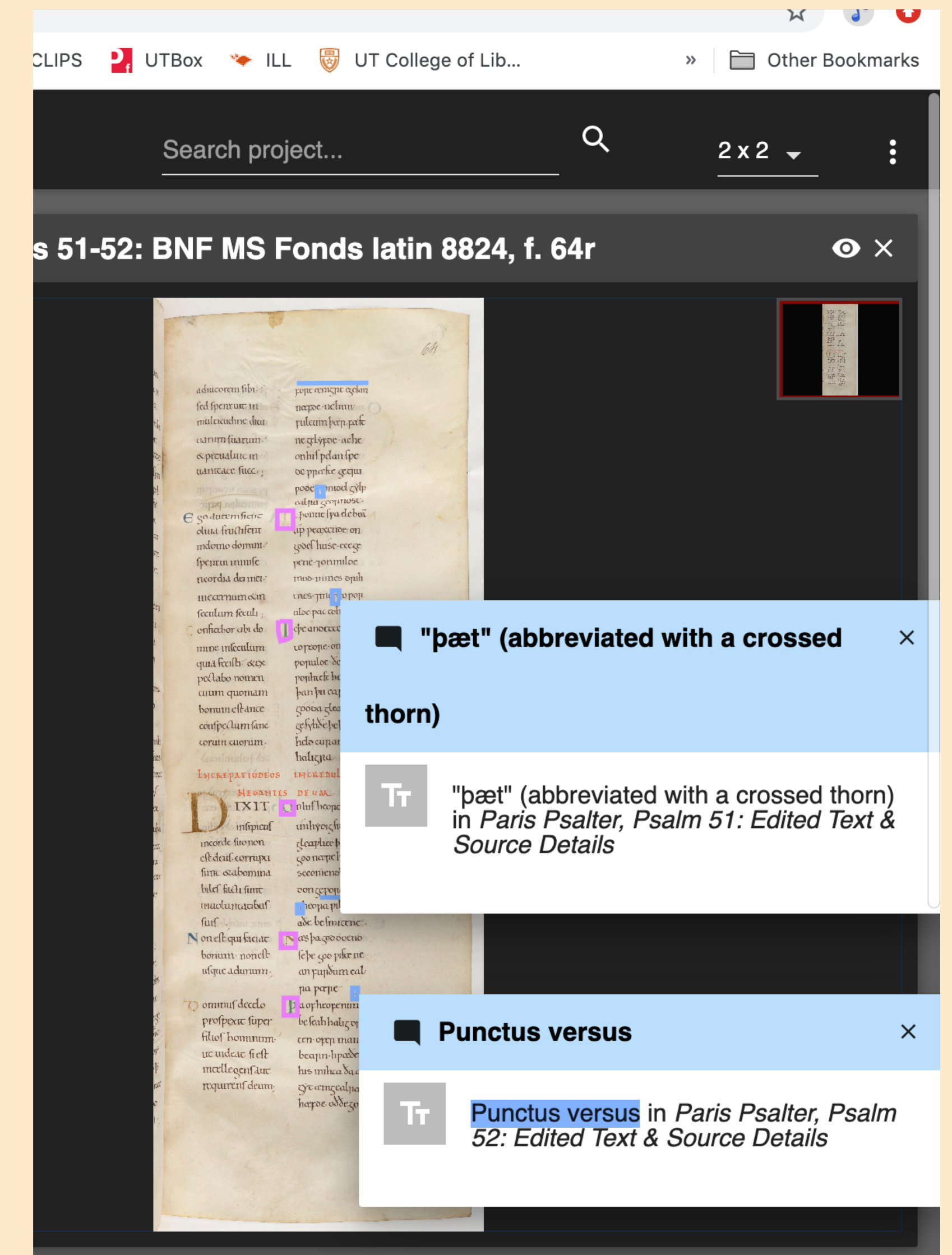
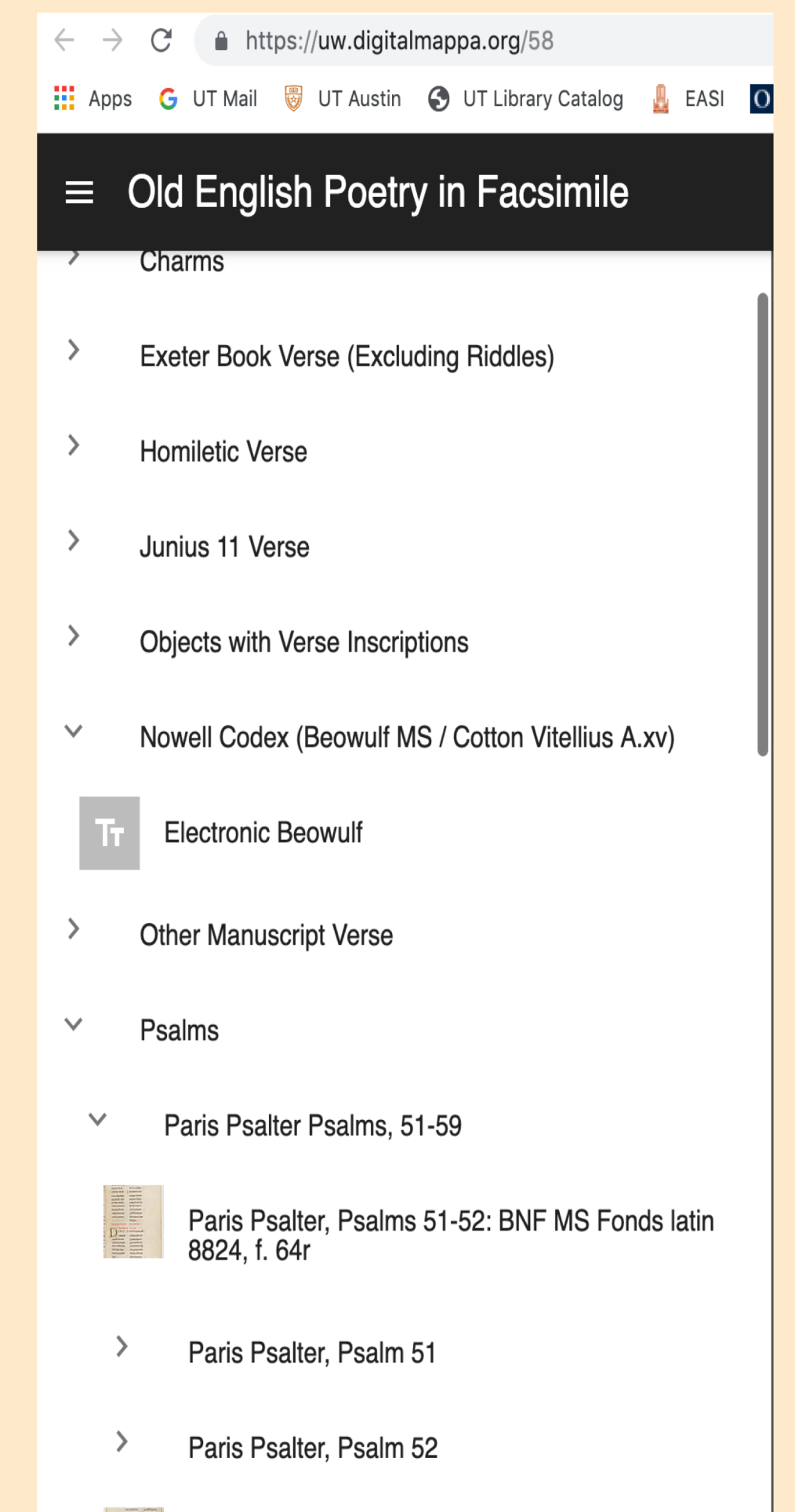


How hyperlinks and visual and textual annotations can enhance the understanding of medieval chant.

Platforms used:

- [Google sites](#)
- [Caspio](#)
- [Digital Mappa](#)

A comparable project on Digital Mappa



What does the website provide?

Database: to search for pieces based on a variety of criteria

Chant Hypertexts: Prosulas in Beneventan Manuscripts

Home
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Database
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Digital Mappa

Page Under Construction

Database

Prosula Incipit

Prosula Element ID

Liturgical Occasion

Genre

Manuscript CH Sigla

Manuscript RISMS Sigla

THK10

Parent Chant Incipit

Parent Chant CH Sigla

CT 2

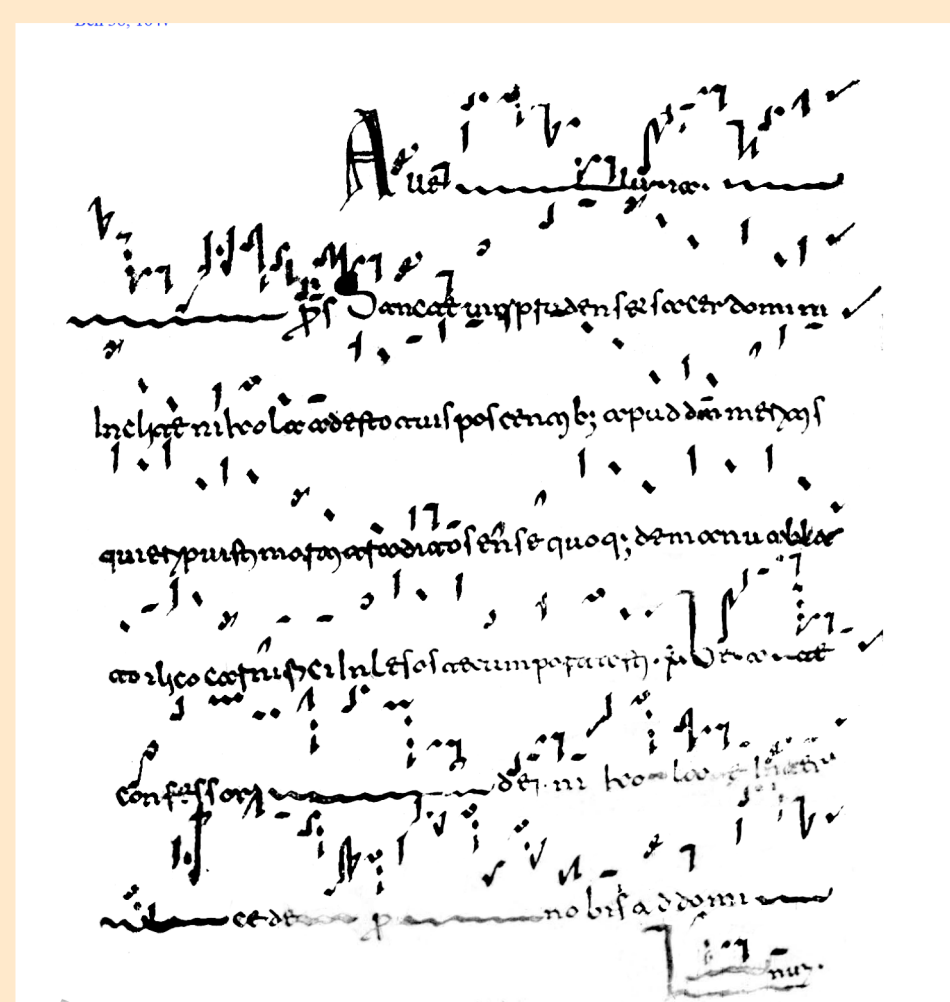
CT 11

Keyword

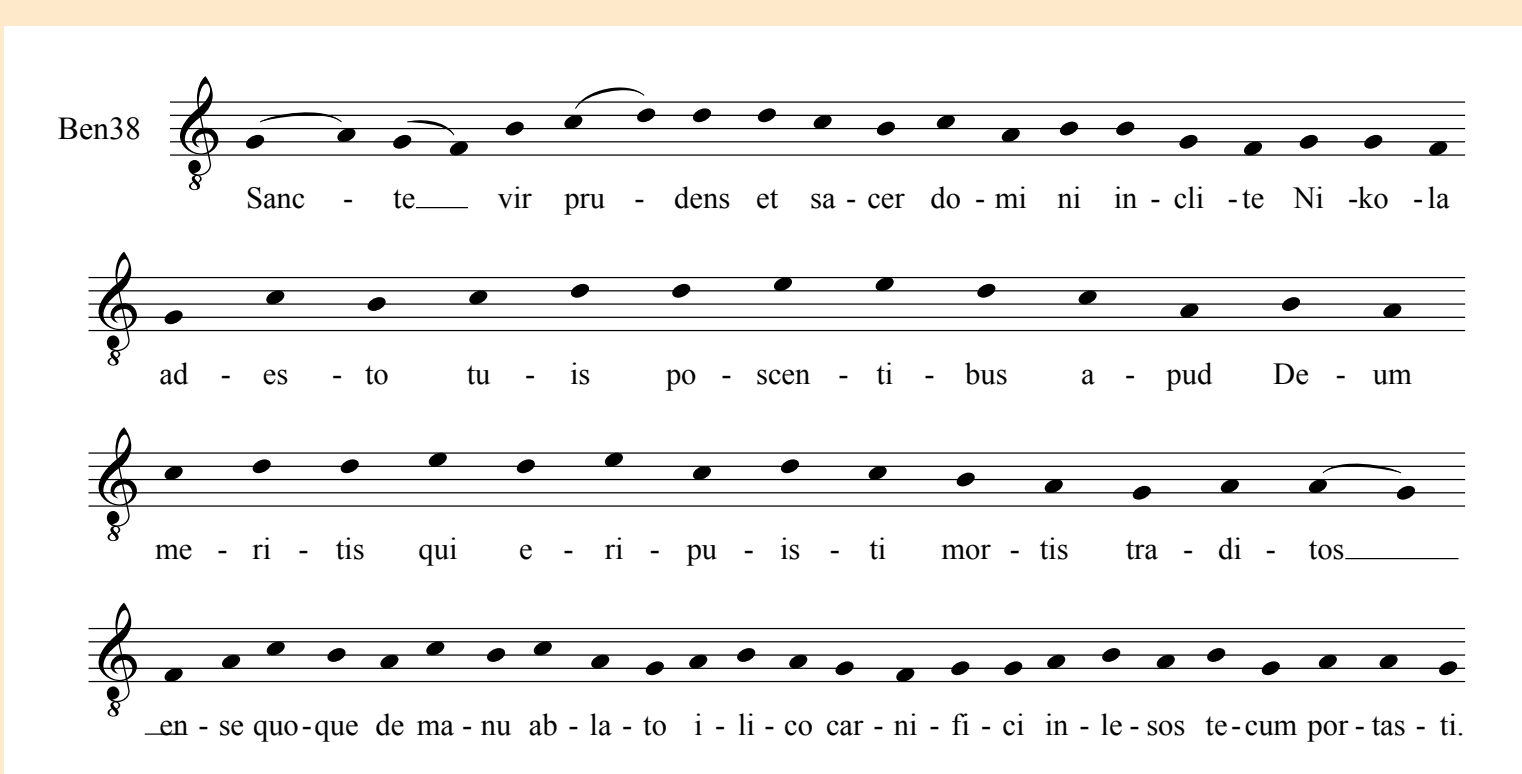
Contributor

Search

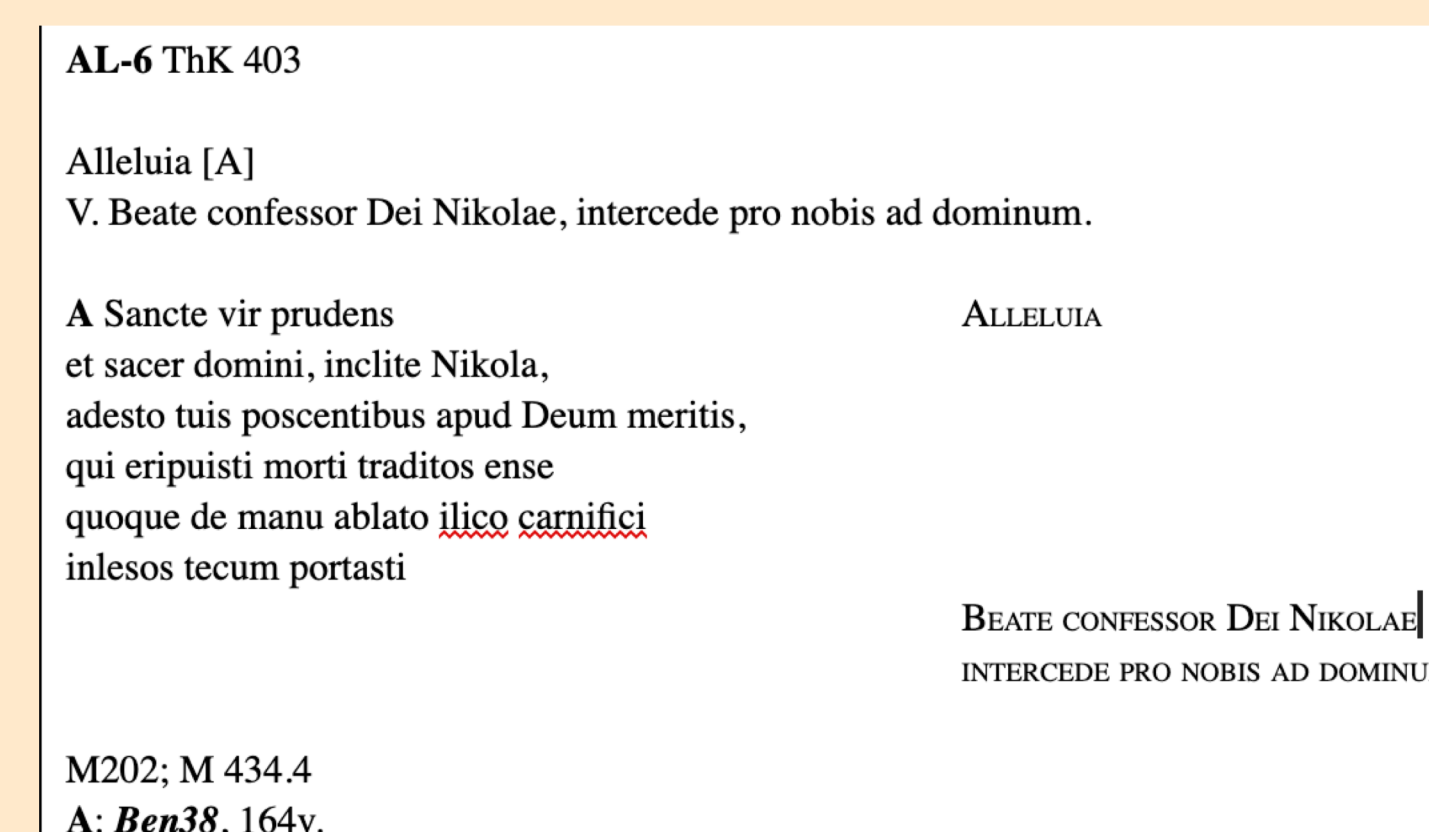
Edition: Manuscripts



Musical transcriptions



Textual editions



+ Links and Visual and Textual Annotations (under construction)

How can a website on medieval chant "Tear Down the Walls"?

1. By **bringing back to life the creativity of local cantors**. Prosulas show the continuous balance between fidelity to a centralized repertory of chant and the will to preserve elements of the local musical and religious culture. In turn, prosulas show the fluidity of liturgical Latin that was morphing into a proto-Italian language. For this reason, my edition does not standardize the texts, so that historians of the language and literature can document linguistic fluctuations.

2. By providing details about the **involvement of nuns** in the creation and diffusion of this repertory. There are at least two manuscripts tied to the nunneries dedicated to St Peter in the city of Benevento, one Inside, the other Outside the Walls. Previous studies have tended to consider nuns as passive receivers of chant and book production. This study considers nuns as the creators of their own manuscripts and chants.

3. By highlighting the **importance of African and Middle Eastern saints and cults** in medieval southern Italy. In the region, early saints from Africa and the Middle East were deemed as more prestigious than local and contemporary ones because they were perceived as closer to the historical and geographical source of Christianity. While generally considered a sign of archaism, this emphasis on foreign and early saints is a striking contrast to white supremacists' misappropriations of the Middle Ages.

4. By **acknowledging all contributors** with sigla and an "About the Team" page.

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