Four Weddings and a Funeral or Two: Ceremonials of Celebration in the Early Modern Era

Cynthia Cyrus, Professor of Musicology
Vanderbilt University
cynthia.cyrus@Vanderbilt.edu

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# COURSE OUTLINE

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Remember from lecture one...

- “Present consent”
Pope Alexander III, r. 1159-1181

Alexander III believed marriage was created simply when spouses both said they were married.
Gratian Decretals, 12\textsuperscript{th} century

- CANON LAW: Marriage has two stages

1) Wedding
   - “present consent” vows – I take you ....
   - \textit{can be dissolved for higher vows (monastery)}
   - \textit{can be dissolved by papal dispensation}

2) Bedding
   - Bedding: sealed spiritually through consummation
   - \textit{indissoluble}
“Future Vows” (*sponsalia per verba de futuro*) ... could be dissolved

- By mutual consent of the parties involved;
- If one of the two made *present* vows with somebody else (i.e., took a higher vow);
- If one of the two moved to a foreign land;
- If one of the two had sex with somebody else;
- If one of the two became a heretic or an apostate; or
- If one of the two became a leper.
4th Lateran Council, 1215

• marriage was not just a matter between individuals but an institution that was protected by the community

• **reading of banns** in church on three consecutive Sundays
  - Free will
  - Not already married
  - Not too closely related
  - Old enough

• So, there is... uh, well, there CAN BE a process

• (... if you don’t rely on present consent)
Why banns? The case of Joan of Kent

- At age 12, said words of “present consent” with a knight. He left for war.
- Early teens: married with pomp and pageantry in a church service to an aristocrat
- 4 years later... the knight came back... and the 2nd marriage was annulled.
- Eventually – 15 yrs later – her knightly husband died, and she married Edward, the Black Prince, and bore King Richard II
Duns Scotus, 1266-1308

- free mutual consent = a *valid* marriage

- church ceremony = *sacramental* marriage
The Multi-stage process....

• Banns
• **Betrothal / engagement**
• Travel and Preparation
• Procession
• **Marriage**
  • Vows (anywhere)
  • Church ceremony/celebrant
• Feast
• **Bedding**

“Sponsalia”: preliminary contract of marriage

Includes “weds” – pledges or securities

Exalted language

Could be by Proxy
Betrothal

**Betrothals** were known to occur early, even before birth...

- Groom/groom’s family gives payment
- If backs out, 4x that sum

Margaret Beaufort betrothed, age 2...
Presentation and Betrothal... by church

FERRARI, Gaudenzio
Scenes from the Life of Mary: The Presentation and Betrothal of Mary
1533-34
Fresco
Cappella dell'Assunta, San Cristoforo, Vercelli
And again, Betrothal by the church

FRANCIABIGIO
Betrothal of the Virgin
1513
Fresco, 395 x 321 cm
Santissima Annunziata, Florence
BECCAFUMI, Domenico
The Betrothal of the Virgin
1518
Fresco, 295 x 304 cm
Oratory of San Bernardino, Siena
BOCCACCINO, Boccaccio
Betrothal of Mary
1514-15
Fresco
Cathedral, Cremona
https://publishing.cdlib.org/ucpressebooks/view?docId=ft1d5nb0d9&chunk.id=d0e5802&toc.depth=1&toc.id=&brand=ucpress
Even in the 14th century, betrothal ceremonies = by a church

VANNI, Lippo
The Betrothal of the Virgin
1360s
Fresco
San Leonardo al Lago, Siena
The Très Riches Heures du Duc de Berry (April) depicting a betrothal. Musée Condé, Chantilly.

https://publishing.cdlib.org/ucpressebooks/view?docId=ft1d5nb0d9&chunk.id=d0e5802&toc.depth=1&toc.id=&brand=ucpress
Meeting of the Betrothed couple....
(You didn’t have to be there in person)
CARPACCIO, Vittore
Meeting of the Betrothed Couple (detail)
1495
Tempera on canvas
Gallerie dell’Accademia, Venice
The Multi-stage process....

- Banns
- Betrothal / engagement
- Travel and Preparation
- Procession
- Marriage
  - Vows (anywhere)
  - Church ceremony/celebrant
- Feast
- Bedding

TRAVEL AND PREPARATION

- Stories of departure from Romances
- Ceremonial of celebration: Dufay’s Vassilissa ergo
Vassilissa ergo, by Dufay

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TybmKVSsYi0

Modern Score:
Therefore rejoice, princess, for you are worthy of all praise, Cleofe, glorious from the deeds of your Malatesta kin, leading men in Italy, great and noble...

[seagues into next stanza]

*elaborate melisma for “Malatestis”
The Multi-stage process....

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In Siena....

• 4 Jan 1459
• The Sienese Concistoro—made a legal exception
  • Allow palace musicians to participate in private celebrations within the city...
  • For the pope’s family

• Delegation included “Knights, doctors, and others”
• The Palace mace bearers
• Trumpeters and the wind band (Pifferi)
• Accompanied the Pope’s nieces in the traditional bridal processions

• D’accone p. 469, 636
Trumpeters?

• The tradition of having trumpeters accompany bridal processions predates the first written Sienese constitutions in 1262....
• That 1262 statute prohibited town musicians from performing at private weddings – so we know it was being done.
• The Siena statues of 1343 limited the number of musicians in bridal processions to “2 trumpeters and a drummer, a shawm, or a trumpet”

• The constitutions prescribe the number of musicians who can be employed for such purposes
• They also specify where in the order of events they might participate.
Trumpeters... a town staff and a court staff

- **Town** of Milan had 6 trumpeters for town, all Italians
- **Court** of Francesco Sforza had 12 trumpeters in 1450, 11 Italians and a German.
- But that wasn’t enough: Court staff grew to 20 trumpeters over the next decade.
- By 1466-7, all of the trumpeters in Milan (at town and at court) were from Italy.

- The Trumpeters, from Milan and elsewhere, played at the wedding of Galeazzo Maria Sforza and Bona of Savoy. They were all in the service of princes, such as Duke of Mantua and Count of Urbino.
Shawm & slide trumpet. Angel musician (detail) from the Najera Tryptich by Hans Memling (ca. 1480). Antwerp, Musée des Beaux-Arts, no. 779.

Cantigas de Santa Maria

15th c fanfare: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Z2o-mBv6Dwk
No, I mean a REAL fanfare

- https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NkD0MxNY_Bw
- “herald trumpet”
- https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=N_0IgcaZ7VA
- They make the music up out of their heads.... Because that’s what trained musicians did!!!
Zorzi trombetta da Modon

• Zorzi the trumpeter
• Worked on a Venetian galley
• Commercial travel: to northern Europe 1447-8
• Commercial travel: along Adriatic coast 1449
  • Zorsi and Augustin the shawmist played at weddings and other festivities for local officials, residents, and visitors

Zorzi and Augustin’s repertoire:

• French chansons for 3 vv
• 2 lower parts of Dunstable’s *Puisque m’amour*
• 4 single tenor parts

Dunstable, *Puisque m’amour*
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bXM36PacAF4