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

2019 Winter Term (Jan 17, 24, 31, Feb 7, 14, 21) at 9:30-10:45a, Commons MPR, VU
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CLASS #</th>
<th>Methodology</th>
<th>Period</th>
<th>Exempla</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Iconographical, cultural</td>
<td>Medieval</td>
<td>Paintings and illuminations, mystical marriage, Fauvel and the charivari</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Iconographical, liturgical, poetic</td>
<td>Later Medieval</td>
<td>Requiems, office of the dead, déplorations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Reconstructing “stages”; documentary and musical evidence</td>
<td>14th-15th century</td>
<td>Dedication motets</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Gifts, parties, and cultural meaning</td>
<td>16th c</td>
<td>Catherine of Aragon et al., peasant weddings</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Festival books and ceremonial posturing</td>
<td>Late 16th c</td>
<td>Lasso, Troiano, and the Bavarian nuptials of 1568</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Narratives, advertisements, regional folk tradition</td>
<td>18th c</td>
<td>Bidden weddings, public wills</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Gifts

You know the drill....

What function do gifts serve?

Are there ways that wedding gifts are different?
Stories of the presentation of the “wed”

• From a study of 34 Romances: the “wed” as ring – a BETROTHAL gift...

• Betrothal rings, jeweled with precious stones
  • colored “deep red,” “the dark red of garnet,” “the light red of pale ruby,” “the green of fresh earthen newness”

• Alternatively, the “wed” as “a banner worked in gold”
  • > remember the banner
Gifts to my wife....

- Jurist Angelus de Ubaldis of Perugia... (late Trecento)
  - The husband conveys precious clothing and accessories to his wife, “so that she may appear in public proudly and honorably.”

- Nuptial gifts of clothing and goods: the husband retains ownership of all except ordinary apparel.
  - Gifts as compulsory reciprocity (Klapisch-Zuber)
  - Gemstones and pearl-studded garlands, richly decorated silver belts or girdles, clothing, marriage chests: investments in Auspiciousness.

- On the other hand: curb nuptial pomp and vestimentary excess: SUMPTUARY LAWS

* Marriage, Dowry, and Citizenship in Late Medieval and Renaissance Italy, By Julius Kirshner
London MS Royal 8.g.vii: 1513-25, probably 1516-22 (KellJ). Copied in Brussels/Mechlin

- Heraldry for Henry VIII
- ...And for Catherine of Aragon
- Yes, it’s a pomegranate

- text of Févin's motet 'Adiutorium nostrum' (ff. 4'-6),
- original names 'Anna' = Anne of Brittany and 'Ludovicus' = Louis XII, King of France were entered in red ink, erased
- replaced by 'Katherina' = Catherine of Aragon and 'Henricus Rex' - Henry VIII.
Joining of the symbols....

Caeleste beneficium introivit in Annam
Jean Mouton (ca. 1459–1522)
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wfrBFsM6Fol
Explicit repurposing Fevin, Adiutorium meum.... Fol 4v — see line 3
And the tenor part: Fevin, Adiutorium nostrum

Part 1: mentions Katherine

Part 2: mentions “Henricus rex”

Performed by Alamire
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FVtzwew7Ekc
Similarly ... The Mellon Chansonnier, likely prepared for Beatrice of Aragon, daughter of the king of Naples, and Mathias Corvinus.

Imperfect anagram (discard some letters):

BEL ACUEIL LE SERGANT D'AMOURS = BEATRICE D'ARAGON
The gift of music... the 1502 celebration of Alfonso d’Este and Lucretia Borgia

• Five Plautus comedies given in nine days
• With intermedi of varied types
• Using the “musiche Mantuane” led by Bartolomeo Tromboncino
• Five moresche:
  • A horse disguised as a unicorn: 4 singers and lute (hidden by foliage) sang “Canzone belissime”
  • 14 satyrs, with silvered ass’s head with a wind instrument hidden inside came together with Turkish drum and zuffolo to play out the exit

Ostinato vo’ seguire
Bartolomeo Tromboncino
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=04UXmX7Z2mI

Ostinato vo’ seguire
Obstinately I shall pursue
My great and noble venture:
Love, do your worst to me
For even unto death
Obstinately I shall pursue
My great and noble venture.
After the wedding: the feast

• In Romances, one might change into wedding clothes
• BANQUET
• Marvelous dishes; entremets; dance or carol; bear-bait, games of chess and dice, *jongleurs* (esp for older men who “listen to the noble deeds of heroes long since past”)

Passeggio [Performing Ensemble] – Saltarello --- start at 1.09
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uMDtWHIhoe0

The choreography is… speculative… but the saltarello was popular late 14<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup> c. and persists to 19<sup>th</sup> c. *saltare* (“to jump”) >> *Hoppertanz* or *Hupfertanz* (“hopping dance”) >> French *pas de Brabant*
Who’s playing? The Pifferi

• Pifferi played a mix of improv and written music
  • Late 15th century: Becoming current with Franco-Flemish polyphony
  • 4 books of secular music, 2 of which were intended for use by Duke’s instrumentalists.

• Pifferi also played – for income – at private ceremonies and parties in and out of town.

• On 8 July 1459, the commune’s silver instruments were lent to the trumpeters and pifferi so they could play them at the wedding of Biagio di Guidone’s daughter.

• The Novelle of Gentile Sermini has the “instruments and pifferi” accompany the bride to the bridegroom’s house.

• D’Accone, 545, 635, Lockwood 260, 273; see also Polk Civic Patronage, Prizer Bernardino Piffaro.
Stories that include a crown

• Bridal procession (e.g. in Romance of “Chevaliers as deus espées,” vv. 10323-28)
  • Queen’s wedding dress is black samite (brocade) worked in gold with figures of beasts and birds
  • She has a bridal crown
BRUEGEL, Pieter the Elder

Peasant Wedding

c. 1567
Oil on wood, 114 x 164 cm
Kunsthistorisches Museum, Vienna
BRUEGEL, Pieter the Elder, Peasant Wedding, c. 1567. Oil on wood, 114 x 164 cm, Kunsthistorisches Museum, Vienna
BRUEGEL, Pieter the Elder, Peasant Wedding, c. 1567, Oil on wood, 114 x 164 cm, Kunsthistorisches Museum, Vienna
BRUEGEL, Pieter the Elder
Peasant Wedding
BRUEGEL, Pieter the Elder
Peasant Wedding
Guests  (Bruegel Peasant Wedding): Notary, Franciscan, Landlord (?)
BRUEGEL, Pieter the Elder
Peasant Wedding
bagpipes as family tradition  (Bruegel Peasant Wedding)
Bagpipes? Improvisatory traditions!

• Scottish Bransle ("brawl" – but not in the sense you think!)
  Circle dance
  Left, approach, left, close / right, close
  And flourishes (hop, kick, demonstrate!)

Scottish Bransle by “Je Pousse Un Cri”:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fkgc5raziLY
And…. Some surviving notated music….

• Remember Zorzi Trombetta and Augustin from last lecture?

• Here we have early 16\textsuperscript{th} century German songs played by modern “Stadtpfeiffer”

\begin{center}
Piffaro [Performing ensemble]  
Zart liep, wie süß dein anfang ist, \textsuperscript{,} arr. Adam Gilbert  
\textsuperscript{(start at 3.01)}  
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8n4zthUR69Q
\end{center}
BRUEGEL, Pieter the Elder
Wedding Dance in the Open Air
1566
Oil on panel, 119 x 157 cm
Institute of Arts, Detroit
BRUEGEL, Pieter the Elder
Wedding Dance in the Open Air
1566
Oil on panel, 119 x 157 cm
Institute of Arts, Detroit
BRUEGEL, Pieter the Elder
The Peasant Dance (1568), Kunsthistorisches Museum, Vienna, oil on oak panel