

# WIGMORE HALL

Monday 22 January 2024  
7.30pm

Brett Dean: Composer in Residence

## Armida Quartet

Martin Funda violin  
Johanna Staemmler violin  
Teresa Schwamm-Biskamp viola  
Peter-Philipp Staemmler cello

Lotte Betts-Dean mezzo-soprano

Robert Schumann (1810-1856)

Gedichte der Königin Maria Stuart Op. 135 (1852) *arranged by Brett Dean world première of arrangement*  
*Abschied von Frankreich • Nach der Geburt ihres Sohnes • An die Königin Elisabeth • Abschied von der Welt • Gebet*

Leoš Janáček (1854-1928)

String Quartet No. 2 'Intimate Letters' (1928)  
*I. Andante • II. Adagio • III. Moderato • IV. Allegro*

Interval

Brett Dean (b.1961)

Madame ma bonne sœur for mezzo-soprano and string quartet (2020-1)  
*Madame ma bonne sœur • In This Our Realm • The Power of the Evil • Nul autre royaume • Trois cents francs à Suzanne*

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This evening's concert pays homage through music and song to the notion of letter-writing, and to the formidably powerful writings of Mary Stuart in particular.

Mary, Queen of Scots spent much of her life writing letters. She was brought up in the French court, far from her mother, Marie de Guise, widow of James V of Scotland, who acted as Regent of the Scottish throne, so relied on epistolary communication from a very young age to express her thoughts or feelings.

Over the course of her 44-year life (1542-1587) Mary Stuart wrote thousands of letters. Her correspondents included most of the kings and queens of Europe (many of whom were related to her at various degrees of separation), a succession of popes, as well as numerous suitors, councillors, members of the Catholic aristocracy and more. Her final letter, to her brother-in-law, King Henri III of France, was written six hours before her head was chopped off, clumsily, in three blows.

In the 1830s the Russian prince Alexander Yakovlevich Lobanov-Rostovsky became obsessed with Mary Stuart, and alongside some 600 portraits of Mary and her entourage which he collected, he was able to locate and copy over 700 of her letters, many of which date from her 19 years spent in various English castle prisons at the behest of her cousin Queen Elizabeth I (or rather of Elizabeth's chief councillor, William Cecil, Lord Burleigh), many having also been written in various codes or at times using invisible ink.

Without these letters, the intimate and often gory details of a pivotal and highly dramatic episode in Tudor history would have been all but lost. We therefore owe a great debt to Prince Lobanov's obsession, as well as to collections such as the Cecil Papers Archive held in Hatfield House.

The ongoing preoccupation among historians for Mary's story, her imprisonment, stand-off and death at the hands of Elizabeth I has resulted in huge numbers of biographies and studies published over the ensuing four and a half centuries, while numerous film and television dramatisations and documentaries have added fuel to that fire of fascination.

Composers too have shown an interest in her life story across the ages; many would have been familiar with Schiller's verse play *Maria Stuart* from 1800, as well as Donizetti's opera setting of it (1835) and possibly also Richard Wagner's early scena *Les adieux de Marie Stuart* from 1840.

We open this evening's programme with one such example: **Robert Schumann's** Poems of Queen Mary Stuart' from 1852, his final song cycle and last published work.

Though it might seem tempting to draw parallels between the writings of the doomed 16th-century monarch with Schumann's own harrowing difficulties in later life, he composed the set of five songs before he became terminally ill and confined to the asylum in Enderich, offering them as a Christmas present to his wife Clara who had chosen the texts from a collection of English and Scottish poems translated into German by Gisbert, Freiherr von Vincke.

Schumann's cycle displays, if anything, a striking, somewhat unexpected sense of austerity given the dramatic subject matter. Free of excessive melodrama or histrionics, some of the songs seem almost skeletal in their settings; vocal lines with relatively unadorned piano accompaniment, stark, even lonely in their portrayal. This arrangement for string quartet, made especially for this programme, receives its première performance this evening.

From Prince Lobanov's extraordinary collection of Mary Stuart letters, librettist Matthew Jocelyn has cherry-picked and structured into song-form extracts of letters (in both French and English) from Mary to cousin Elizabeth to form the basis of our song cycle, *Madame ma bonne sœur*, originally composed for and premièred by tonight's performers at the 2021 Oxford Lieder Festival.

The core of this five-song cycle is three letters dating from Mary's return to Scotland: age 19, to take up her role as queen in 1561 ('In This our Realm'); her plea to Elizabeth, five years later, to disregard the fallacious claims of the Scottish rebel forces trying to disempower her ('The Power of the Evil'); and, in 1582, her cry of despair after more than 14 years of imprisonment in England ('Nul autre royaume').

To these have been added, at the beginning of this song cycle, a succession of introductory salutations from Marie's letters to Elizabeth over a 27-year period ('Madame ma bonne sœur', 1559-86) and, at the end, elements from her final will and testament, written in the wee hours of 7 February 1587 preceding her above-mentioned execution ('Trois cents francs à Suzanne').

Our cycle shares with Schumann's own five-song set a gathering of snapshots into Mary's life across several decades. Not a life portrait, nor a full depiction of Mary's complex and oft-changing relationship with Elizabeth I, but a small window onto the words so beautifully crafted by her, at various moments, to give shape to her quests. Words now begging to be sung.

Between these two Mary Stuart works comes another composition which found its inspiration in the private world of letter-writing, **Leoš Janáček's** Second String Quartet, better known as 'Intimate Letters'. This highly autobiographical work was completed not long before his death in 1928, the result of the strong emotional hold that a much younger married woman, Kamila Stösslová, had over him throughout the final decade of his life, resulting in him writing over 600 letters to her.

She must have been quite some muse for Janáček. On the quartet's completion, he wrote: 'You stand behind every note; you, living, forceful, loving. The fragrance of your body, the glow of your kisses. Those notes of mine kiss all of you. They call for you passionately.'

Its four movements might seem to fit the conventional form of the late Romantic string quartet, largely tonal and highly lyrical in nature. However, that's where those similarities end; this work's emotional field is fiery, raw, insatiable.

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## Robert Schumann (1810-1856)

### Gedichte der Königin Maria Stuart Op. 135 (1852)

arranged by Brett Dean

Mary Stuart, trans. Gisbert, Freiherr von Vincke

#### Abschied von Frankreich

Ich zieh dahin!  
Ade, mein fröhlich  
Frankenland,  
Wo ich die liebste Heimat  
fand,  
Du meiner Kindheit  
Pflegerin!  
Ade, du Land, du schöne  
Zeit –  
Mich trennt das Boot vom  
Glück so weit!  
Doch trägt's die Hälfte nur  
von mir:  
Ein Teil für immer bleibet  
dein,  
Mein fröhlich Land, der sage  
dir,  
Des andern eingedenk zu sein!  
Ade!

#### Farewell to France

I am going away!  
Farewell, my happy  
France,  
where I found the dearest  
homeland,  
you, the guardian of my  
childhood!  
Farewell, O land, O happy  
time –  
the ship bears me far  
away from joy!  
Yet it takes but half of  
me:  
one part will be forever  
yours,  
my happy land, and it  
asks you  
always to remember me!  
Farewell!

#### Nach der Geburt ihres Sohnes

Herr Jesu Christ, den sie  
gekrönt mit Dornen,  
Beschütze die Geburt des  
hier Gebornen.  
Und sei's dein Will', lass sein  
Geschlecht zugleich  
Lang herrschen noch in  
diesem Königreich,  
Und Alles, was geschieht in  
seinem Namen,  
Sei dir zu Ruhm und Preis  
und Ehre, Amen.

#### After the birth of her son

Lord Jesus Christ, whom  
they crowned with thorns,  
protect this new-born  
boy.  
And, if it be thy will, let his  
race  
long rule in this  
realm  
and let all that is done in  
his name  
be to thy glory, praise and  
honour, Amen.

#### An die Königin Elisabeth

Nur ein Gedanke, der mich  
freut und quält,  
Hält ewig mir den Sinn  
gefangen,  
So dass der Furcht und  
Hoffnung Stimmen klangen,  
Als ich die Stunden ruhelos  
gezählt.

#### To Queen Elizabeth

One thought alone gladdens  
and grieves me  
and always dominates my  
mind,  
so that the voices of fear  
and hope resounded,  
when sleepless I counted  
the hours.

Und wenn mein Herz  
dies Blatt zum Boten wählt,

And when my heart chooses  
this letter as messenger,

Und kündet, Euch zu sehen,  
mein Verlangen,  
Dann, teure Schwester, fasst  
mich neues Bangen,  
Weil ihm die Macht, es zu  
beweisen, fehlt.

revealing how I long to  
see you,  
then, dear sister, a new  
anguish seizes me,  
because the letter lacks  
the power to prove it.

Ich seh' den Kahn, im Hafen  
fast geborgen,  
Vom Sturm und Kampf der  
Wogen festgehalten,  
Des Himmels heit' res Antlitz  
nachtumgraut.  
So bin auch ich bewegt von  
Furcht und Sorgen,  
Vor Euch nicht, Schwester!  
Doch des Schicksals Walten  
Zerreißt das Segel oft, dem  
wir vertraut.

I see the boat half hidden  
in the harbour,  
held back by the storm  
and warring waves,  
and heaven's serene face  
blackened by night.  
So am I likewise beset by  
cares and fear,  
not of you, my sister! But  
the force of fate  
often lacerates the sail in  
which we trust.

#### Abschied von der Welt

Was nützt die mir noch  
zugemess'ne Zeit?  
Mein Herz erstarb für  
irdisches Begehren,  
Nur Leiden soll mein  
Schatten nicht entbehren,  
Mir blieb allein die  
Todesfreudigkeit.

#### Farewell to the world

What use is the time still  
allotted me?  
My heart is dead to  
earthly desires,  
my shadow is severed  
from all but sorrow,  
the joy of death alone  
remains.

Ihr Feinde, lasst von eurem  
Neid:  
Mein Herz ist abgewandt der  
Hoheit Ehren,  
Des Schmerzes Übermass  
wird mich verzehren,  
Bald geht mit mir zu Grabe  
Hass und Streit.

Cease envying me, O  
enemies:  
my heart abjures all  
honour and nobility,  
excess of anguish will  
devour me,  
hatred and schism will soon  
be buried with me.

Ihr Freunde, die ihr mein  
gedenkt in Liebe,  
Erwägt und glaubt, dass  
ohne Kraft und Glück  
Kein gutes Werk mir zu  
vollenden bliebe.

O friends, who will  
remember me with love,  
consider and believe that  
without power or fortune  
there is nothing good I  
can achieve.

So wünscht mir bess're Tage  
nicht zurück,  
Und weil ich schwer  
gestrafet werd'  
hienieden,  
Erleht mir meinen Teil am  
ew'gen Frieden!

So do not wish for the  
return of happier days,  
and because I've been  
sorely punished here  
on earth,  
pray that a share of eternal  
peace might be mine!

*Please do not turn the page until the song and its accompaniment have ended.*

## Gebet

O Gott, mein Gebieter,  
Ich hoffe auf Dich!  
O Jesu, Geliebter,  
Nun rette Du mich!  
Im harten Gefängnis,  
In schlimmer Bedrängnis  
Ersehne ich Dich;  
In Klagen Dir klagend,  
Im Staube verzagend,  
Erhör, ich beschwöre,  
Und rette Du mich!

## Prayer

O Lord God,  
I put my trust in Thee!  
O beloved Jesus,  
rescue me!  
In my harsh prison,  
in dire affliction  
I long for Thee;  
lamenting I cry to Thee,  
despairing in the dust,  
hearken, I implore Thee,  
and rescue me!

## Leoš Janáček (1854-1928)

### String Quartet No. 2 'Intimate Letters' (1928)

*I. Andante*

*II. Adagio*

*III. Moderato*

*IV. Allegro*

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## Interval

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## Brett Dean (b.1961)

### Madame ma bonne sœur for mezzo-soprano and string quartet (2020-1)

*Matthew Jocelyn, based on the writings of Mary Stuart*

#### Madame ma bonne sœur

Très haute et très excellente  
Princesse,  
Notre très chère et très  
aimée sœur et cousine -

Right excellent, right high  
and mighty Princess,  
Our dearest sister and  
cousin -

Right excellent, right high  
and mighty Princess,  
Our right dear and right well-  
beloved sister and cousin,  
We greet you heartily  
well.

Très excellente, très noble et  
très puissante Princesse,  
salut.

#### Madame my good sister

Right high and right  
excellent Princess  
Our most dear and most  
beloved sister and cousin

Très excellente, très haute  
et puissante Princesse,  
notre très chère sœur et  
cousine

Très excellente, très haute  
et puissante Princesse,  
notre très chère et bien-  
aimée sœur et cousine,  
nous vous saluons  
chaleureusement.

Right excellent, right  
noble and right mighty  
Princess, we greet you.

Right excellent, right mighty  
Princess, and good  
sister

Madame ma bonne sœur

Madame ma bonne sœur

Our dearest sister and  
cousin,  
We commend us unto you  
In our most hearty  
manner.

Ma très chère sœur,

We perceive that in place of  
the good *amitié*  
And mutual intelligence  
Which heretofore has of long  
time  
Continued between us,  
There is to our grief a  
coldness entered in -

Domina, soror mea optima

Madame ma bonne sœur,  
M'étant venue jeter entre vos  
bras,  
Comme de ma plus assurée  
espérance

Dearest sister and  
cousin -  
The great trust and confidence  
Which we have reposed in  
you,  
As our most dear and tender  
of all others,  
Moved us first to come into  
your realm -

Madame, les extrêmes  
rigueurs  
Qui me sont par votre  
commandement usées,  
Me rendent à mon grand  
regret  
Certaine d'être estimée de  
vous,  
Au lieu d'amie,  
ennemie,  
Au lieu de parente,  
étrangère,  
Voire plus abhorrée que ne  
permet  
La charité chrétienne entre si  
proches de sang  
royal -

Très excellente, très  
puissante Princesse, et  
bonne sœur

Madame my good sister

Madame my good sister

Notre très chère sœur et  
cousine,  
nous vous saluons  
de la manière la plus  
chaleureuse.

My most dear sister,

Nous percevons qu'à la  
place de la bonne amitié  
et de l'intelligence mutuelle  
qui jusqu'ici et depuis  
longtemps  
existent entre nous,  
il s'y est introduit une  
certaine froideur -

My Lady, and dearest sister

Madame, my dear sister,  
having thrown myself into  
your arms,  
as my most assured  
hope,

Ma très chère sœur et  
cousine -  
La grande confiance  
que nous avons placée en  
vous,  
étant, entre tous, notre plus  
chère et plus tendre,  
nous a d'emblée poussé à  
venir en votre royaume -

Madame, the extreme  
rigours  
which, by your command,  
are used in my regard,  
make me, to my great  
regret,  
certain to be esteemed  
by you  
instead of as a friend, an  
enemy,  
instead of as a relation, a  
foreigner,  
or even more abhorred  
than would allow  
Christian charity between  
those so close in (royal)  
blood -

Madame ma bonne sœur	Madame my good sister
Madame ma bonne sœur	Madame my good sister
Madame ma bonne sœur	Madame my good sister
Je vous conjure, madame, Par le sang de Jésus Christ, Par notre parenté, Et par le titre de Reine, Que je porte encore jusqu'à la mort, De ne me point refuser ... Un mot de votre main; Là-dessus je mourrai comme j'ai vécu, Votre affectionnée sœur et prisonnière.	I beg you, Madame, by the blood of Jesus Christ, by our family ties and by the title of Queen which I shall wear until death, do not refuse me a word from your hand; upon which I shall die as I have lived, your affectionate sister and prisoner.

### In This Our Realm

Right excellent, Princess,  
Our dearest sister and  
cousin,  
We greet you well.

Whereas it pleaseth you  
purposely  
To direct Sir Peter,  
knight,  
To visit us on your  
behalf,  
And to declare the  
contentment you  
had  
Of our prosperous  
journey  
And safe arrival in  
this our  
realm;  
We give you most heartily  
thanks.

### Dans notre royaume

Très excellente Princesse  
notre plus chère sœur et  
cousine,  
nous vous saluons.

Comme il est de votre  
plaisir  
d'envoyer Sir Peter,  
chevalier,  
pour nous rendre visite à  
votre place  
et pour nous déclarer le  
contentement que vous  
avez eu  
au sujet de notre voyage  
prospère  
et de notre arrive en  
sécurité ici, dans notre  
royaume;  
nous vous en remercions  
de tout cœur

Yes, Sir Peter, knight, Has so wisely, so discreetly Uttered and expressed The sincerity of your attention towards us, In this our realm, So have we answered him, Sir Peter, knight, We answered him In every point. We mean nothing, No, nothing so earnestly than continuance Of tender amity and good intelligence betwixt us, The report wherof, we refer to his sufficiency. Sir Peter, Sir Peter Meutas, knight. To his sufficiency.	Oui, Sir Peter, chevalier, avec tant de sagesse et de discretion, a exprimé la sincérité de votre attention à notre égard ici, dans notre royaume, ainsi lui avons-nous répondu à Sir Peter, chevalier, nous lui avons répondu sur chaque point. Nous ne souhaitons rien, non, rien avec autant de sincérité que la continuation de la tendre amitié et de la bonne intelligence entre nous, pour le rapport desquelles nous nous fions à sa suffisance de Sir Peter, Sir Peter Meutas, à sa suffisance.
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And so, right excellent  
Princess,  
Our dearest sister and  
cousin,  
We commit you to the  
tuition of almighty  
God.

Given under our signet, at  
our palace of Holyrood  
house,  
the seventh day of October  
And of our reign the  
nineteenth year.

In this our realm, our  
realm.

Ainsi, notre très  
excellente Princesse,  
notre plus chère sœur et  
cousine,  
nous vous recommandons  
à la bienveillance de Dieu  
tout-puissant.

Ecrit sous notre sceaux,  
dans notre Palais de  
Holyrood,  
le septième jour d'octobre,  
et de notre règne le dix-  
neuvième année,

Ici, dans notre royaume,  
notre royaume.

## The Power of the Evil

We know the power of the evil  
And the wrongous reports –  
Made unto you of us.  
We know the power of the evil.

Right excellent, right mighty Princess  
And our good sister,  
How can you be so inclined  
Rather to believe the false speakings  
Of such as has offended us  
Than us,  
Who are of your own blood?

How can you?  
How can you believe  
The power of the evil  
Rather than us  
Who are of your own blood?  
Rather than us – your blood.

How should you  
- Or any other prince -  
Procure for such traitors  
As have taken our houses,  
Slain our most special servant  
Slain,  
- Oh Rizzio -  
And in our own presence...  
- My Rizzio, oh special, special Rizzio –  
Slain,  
Evil,  
Sister,  
And held our proper persons captive  
In our palace?

How can you believe  
The power of the evil  
Whereby we were constrained to escape  
- In the sickness and evil disposition  
Of being with child, yes, with child -

## La puissance du mal

Nous connaissons la puissance du mal  
et les rapports injurieux qui vous ont été faits à mon égard.  
Nous connaissons la puissance du mal.

Très excellente, très puissante Princesse  
et notre bonne sœur  
Comment pouvez-vous choisir de croire  
plutôt aux faux dires  
de ceux qui nous ont offensés  
qu'à nous-mêmes,  
qui sommes de votre sang.

Comment?  
Comment pouvez-vous croire  
en la puissance du mal  
plutôt qu'en nous  
qui sommes de votre sang?  
Plutôt qu'en nous – votre sang.

Pourquoi soutiendriez-vous  
- ou tout autre prince –  
de tels traîtres  
qui se sont emparés de nos maisons,  
qui ont assassiné notre précieux serviteur,  
assassiné,  
- oh Rizzio –  
et en notre présence même...  
- mon Rizzio, oh mon précieux Rizzio –  
assassiné,  
le mal,  
sœur,  
et qui nous ont gardée en ôtage  
dans notre propre palais?

Comment pouvez-vous croire  
en la puissance du mal  
qui nous a obligé de nous échapper  
- malade et mal disposée  
comme je le fus,  
étant enceinte, oui,  
enceinte –

To the place where we are now,  
In the greatest danger,  
And in fear of our lives -  
The most evil estate  
That ever princess on earth stood in?  
Right excellent, right high and mighty Princess  
And good sister, and our good sister,  
How can you?  
How can you believe?  
How can you?  
How can you believe  
the power of the evil?  
How can you?  
The evil? The power?  
Oh, how can you?

## Nul autre royaume

Madame ma bonne sœur

Il faut que j'emploie si peu de vie  
Qui me reste devant ma mort,  
Madame,  
Pour vous décharger pleinement mon cœur  
De mes justes et lamentables plaintes.

Que cette lettre vous serve,  
Tant que vous vivrez après moi,  
D'un perpétuel gravure  
En votre conscience,  
Tant à ma décharge pour la postérité,  
Qu'à la honte de tous ceux qui  
M'ont si indignement menée  
A l'extrémité où je suis  
aujourd'hui -  
Réduite, toute honte passée,  
En la captivité où je meurs -  
Oui,  
Oui, où je meurs,  
Après mille morts déjà souffertes.

vers l'endroit où nous nous trouvons maintenant,  
dans le plus grand danger,  
et craignant pour nos vies –  
l'état le plus maléfique  
que princesse sur terre ait jamais connu?  
Très excellente, très haute et puissante Princesse,  
et bonne sœur, notre bonne sœur,  
Comment le pouvez-vous?  
Comment pouvez-vous croire?  
Comment le pouvez-vous?  
Comment pouvez-vous croire  
en la puissance du mal?  
Comment le pouvez-vous?  
Le mal? La puissance?  
Oh, comment le pouvez-vous?

## No other realm

Madame my dear sister

I must use the little life which remains before my death  
Madame,  
to fully relieve my heart to you  
of my just and pitiable complaints.

Let this letter serve,  
as long as you live after me,  
as a perpetual reminder within your own conscience,  
as much to discharge me for posterity  
as to the shame of all those who  
so disrespectfully led me to the extreme state in which I find myself today –  
reduced, beyond all shame, to the captivity in which I die.  
Yes,  
yes, in which I die after the thousand deaths I have already suffered.

J'aurai recours au Dieu vivant,  
Notre seul juge.  
Je lui invoquerai  
Pour rétribuer à vous et à moi  
La part de nos mérites  
Et démerites l'une vers l'une,  
Comme il fera à son jugement dernier.

I shall have recourse to the living God,  
our unique judge.  
I shall call upon him  
to distribute between you and me  
the extent of our merits and demerits one towards the other,  
as he shall do at the Last Judgement.

Souvenez vous, Madame,  
Qu'à lui nous ne saurions rien déguiser  
Par les fards et polices de ce monde.

Remember, Madame,  
that we can hide nothing from him  
with the cosmetics and flatteries of this world.

Rien, non rien, ne rien déguiser.  
Croyez, Madame –  
Je ne suis pour la faire longue.

Nothing, no nothing, hide nothing.  
Believe me, Madame  
I am not for long of this world.

Votre prison  
A déjà détruit mon pauvre corps,  
Languissant entre quatre murailles,  
Tant travaillé de continuelles douleurs.  
Il ne me reste que l'âme,  
Laquelle il n'est en votre puissance de captiver.  
Elle cherche seul son salut,  
Nul autre royaume  
Que celui de mon Dieu.  
Elle cherche seul son salut,  
Nul autre royaume  
Que celui de mon Dieu.

Your prison  
has already destroyed my poor body  
languishing between four walls,  
belaboured by continual pains.  
Only my soul remains which it is not in your power to capture.  
It alone seeks salvation,  
no other realm  
than that of my God.  
It alone seeks salvation,  
no other realm  
than that of my God.

### Trois cents francs à Suzanne

### Three hundred francs to Suzanne

Au nom du Père, du Fils et du Saint Esprit.  
Je, Marie, par la grâce de Dieu,  
Reine d'Écosse,  
Douairière de France,  
Etant prête de mourir  
- Et n'ayant pas moyen de faire mon testament -  
J'ai mis ces articles par écrit...

In the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.  
I, Mary, by the grace of God,  
Queen of Scotland,  
Dowager of France,  
being ready to die  
- and not having the means to write my testament -  
I have put these articles in writing...

Protestant en premier de mourir  
En la foi catholique, apostolique et romaine.  
Je veux qu'il soit fait un service complet  
Pour le salut de mon âme.

Declaring first of all to die  
in the apostolic and Roman Catholic faith  
I request a full funeral service  
for the salvation of my soul.

Avant toute autre chose  
Je veux que les gages de mes gens,  
Tant de l'année passée que de la présente,  
Soient tous payés.

Before anything else  
I want the wages of my staff,  
both from last year and this present year,  
to be paid in full.

Les dix mil francs  
Que l'ambassadeur avait reçus pour moi,  
Je veux qu'ils soient employés  
Entre mes serviteurs  
qui s'en vont à présent:

The ten thousand francs  
which the Ambassador received for me,  
I want them to be paid out amongst my servants  
who will now be leaving my service:

Premier, deux mil francs à mon médecin,  
Deux mil à Elizabet Courle,  
Deux mil francs à Sébastien Pages,  
Deux mil à Marie Pages, ma filleule.  
A Beauregard mil francs,  
A Mobray mil francs,  
Mil à Gourgon,  
Mil à Gervais.

Firstly, two thousand to my doctor,  
two thousand to Elizabet Courle,  
two thousand francs to Sébastien Pages,  
two thousand to Marie Pages, my god-daughter,  
to Beauregard a thousand francs,  
to Mowbray a thousand francs,  
a thousand to Gourgon  
a thousand to Gervais.

Sur les autres deniers de mon revenu,  
Je veux être employés cinq mil francs  
A la Miséricorde des enfants de Reims.

From the remainder of my revenue,  
I want five thousand francs to be used  
for the Mercy of the children of Rheims.

A mes écoliers deux mil francs.

To my school children two thousand francs.

Aux Quatre ordres Mendians  
La somme qui semblera nécessaire,  
Selon les moyens qui se trouveront.  
Cinq cents francs aux hôpitaux.  
A l'écuyer de cuisine  
Martin je donne mille francs.

To the Four orders of Beggars  
the sum which is deemed necessary  
according to the means which will remain  
five hundred francs to the hospitals.  
To the kitchen squire,  
Martin, I give a thousand francs

Mil francs à Annibal	A thousand francs to Annibal
Je laisse cinq cents francs à Nicolas Et cinq cents francs pour ses filles, Quand il les mariera.	I leave five hundred francs to Nicolas and five hundred francs for his daughters, when he marries them.
Je donne trois cents francs à Laurens. Plus, trois cents francs à Suzanne. Oui, trois cents francs à Suzanne. Si Bourgoïn accomplit le voyage de vœux Qu'il fait pour moi à St Nicolas, Je veux que quinze cents francs Lui soient livrés à cet effet.	I give three hundred francs to Laurens. Plus, three hundred francs to Suzanne. Yes, three hundred francs to Suzanne. If Bourgoïn accomplishes the trip sacred pilgrimage which he is making to St Nicolas for me, I want fifteen hundred francs to be given to him to do this.
Plus, trois cents francs à Suzanne.	Plus, three hundred francs to Suzanne.
Je recommande Marie Pages, ma filleule, A ma cousine Madame de Guise, Et la prie la prendre en son service; Et ma tante de Saint- Pierre, Faire mettre Mobray en quelque bon lieu, Ou la retenir en son service pour l'honneur de Dieu.	I recommend Marie Pages, my god-daughter, to my cousin Madame de Guise, and request she be taken into her service; and that my aunt Saint- Pierre places Mobray in some good position, or retains him in her service for the honour of God.
Plus, trois cents francs à Suzanne. Yes, trois cents francs à Suzanne Plus, trois cents francs à Suzanne. Suzanne.	Plus, three hundred francs to Suzanne. Yes, three hundred francs to Suzanne. Plus, three hundred francs to Suzanne. Suzanne.
Fait le matin de ma mort, ce mercredi huitième février, mille cinq cent quatre- vingt-sept.	Written the morning of my death, this Wednesday 8 February, 1587
Ainsi signé: MARIE, Reine	Signed: MARY, Queen