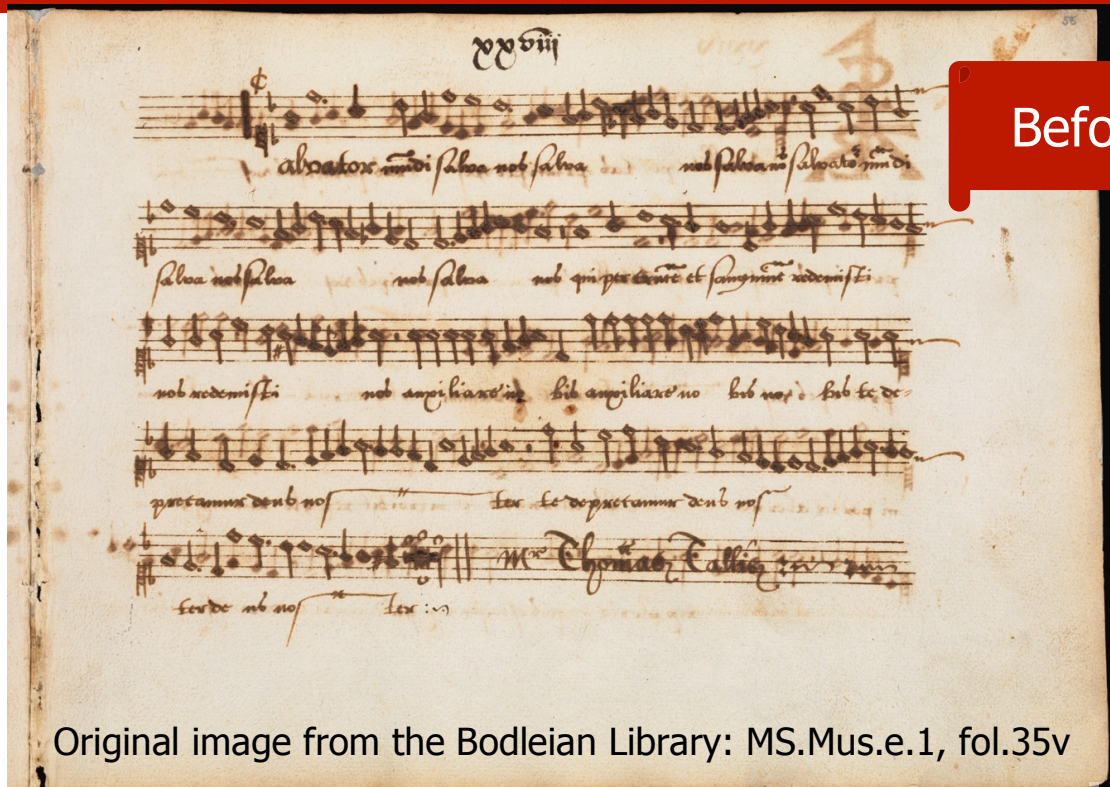


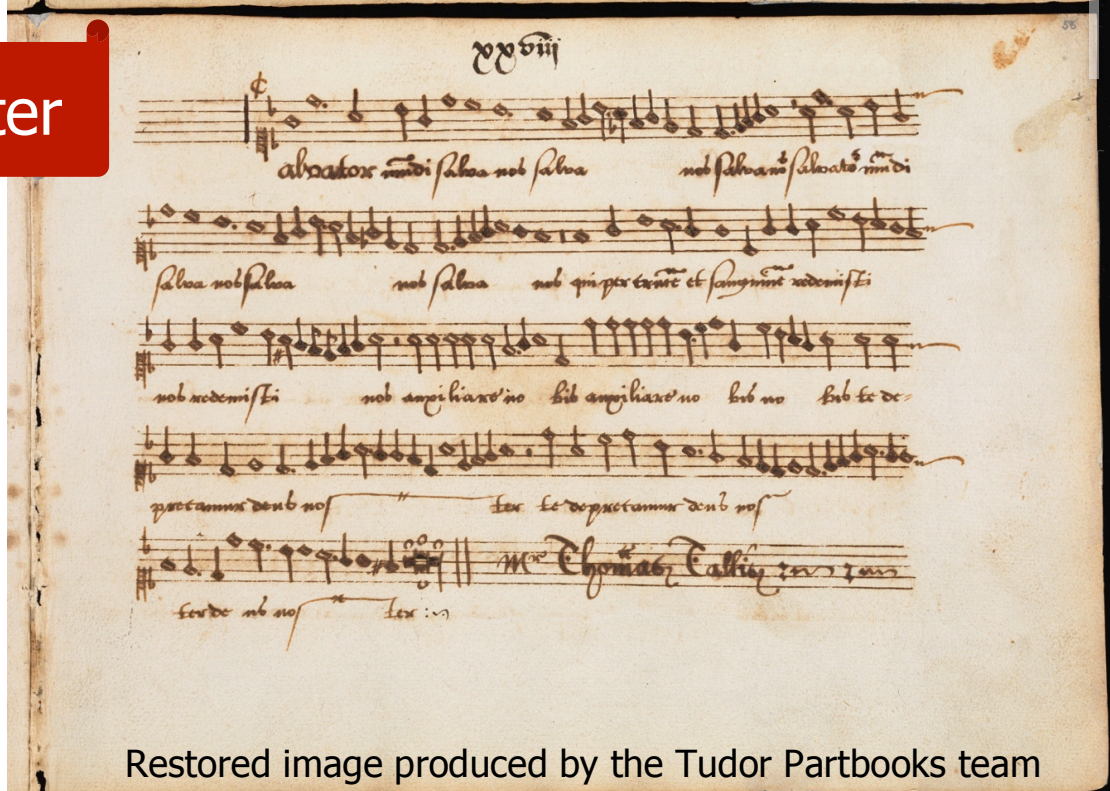
Restoring John Sadler's Music Partbooks



Before

Original image from the Bodleian Library: MS.Mus.e.1, fol.35v

After



Restored image produced by the Tudor Partbooks team

Would you like to train as a volunteer restorer?

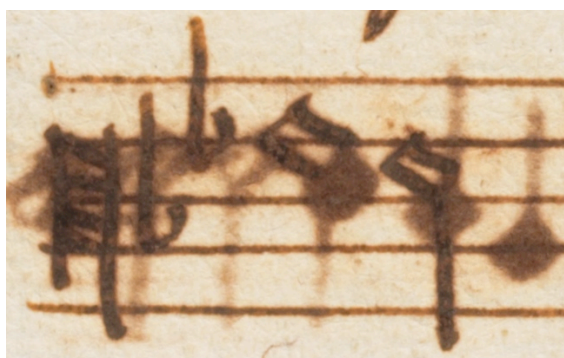
The Problem

In c.1565-85 John Sadler, a clergyman and schoolmaster from Oundle, copied a beautiful set of five musical partbooks, decorated with colourful inscriptions and pictures. Unfortunately his ink was too acidic, causing it to burn through the paper. This has left the music difficult to read and books so fragile that people cannot look at them in person anymore.

Our Aim

We're producing a digitally restored facsimile edition of the Sadler partbooks that will make their contents available to scholars, students and early music performers after many years of obscurity

How We Are Restoring It



We're using the 'Clone Stamp' tool from Adobe Photoshop.

Using this we paste clear areas of manuscript over the show-through or sharp note-heads over smudged ones. It's a time-consuming process with pages like that overleaf taking 6-8 hours (though not all are this bad!).



The images on the left show:

- 1) The original image
- 2) The layer with the cloned restoration
- 3) Final result with the cloned part superimposed

We have 565 images to restore, estimated to take c.3000 hours!

This is why we need some volunteers. If you fancy having a go, email:

katherine.butler@music.ox.ac.uk

You could make a real difference to a high profile research project.