

Pronunciation Chart for Trois Chansons Bretonnes

II. La complainte des âmes (The Lament of Souls) – H. Badings

Top line=text, silent consonants in grey, nasalizing consonants shown with strike-through

2nd line= approximate to the spoken language

3rd line= International Phonetic Alphabet (IPA) transcription; exact to the language

Pronunciation key:

[ã] = ah nasal, like a nasalized version of the vowel sound in *honk*

[ě] = eh nasal, like a nasalized version of the vowel sound in *sand/send*, mixed together

[õ] = oh nasal, like a nasalized version of the vowel sound in *shown*

[œ̃] = o-e nasal, like a nasalized version of the vowel sound in *funky*

[ɔ] open o is made with *oh* lips but pronounced with *aw* inside

[ə] French mute e is pronounced more closely to the rounded sound [œ] than neutral *uh*

[ʒ] this is the sound “zh” in *pleasure* or *leisure*

m. 1 **Vierge Marie, ô bonne Mère** *Virgin Mary, O good Mother,*

vyehr-zhuh mah-ree-uh oh baw-nuh meh-ruh

[vjɛr ʒə ma ri ə o bɔ nə mɛr ə]

m. 2 **Ô bonne Mère de Jésus!** *O good Mother of Jesus!*

oh baw-nuh meh-ruh duh zhay zee(lips puckered)

[o bɔ nə mɛr ə də ʒe zy]

m. 4 **C'est ici la complainte amère** *This is the bitter lament*

seht_ee-see lah kaw(nasalized)-pleh(nasalized)-t_ah- meh-ruh

[sɛ t_ɛ si la kɔ̃ plɛ̃ t_ɑ mɛ rə]

m. 5 **Que chantent ceux qui ne sont plus!** *Sung by those who are no more!*

kuh shaw(nasalized)-tuh suh kee nuh soh(nasalized) plee(lips puckered)

[kə ʃã tə sɔ̃ ki nə sɔ̃ ply]

m. 8 **Nous venons en ce soir d'Automne,** *We come this Autumn evening*

noo vuh- noh(nasalized) z_aw(nasalized) suh swar doh-tawn

[nu vɛ nɔ̃ z_ã sɛ swar do tɔ̃ nə]

m. 9 **frapper aux portes des Amis;** *To knock at the doors of our Friends;*

frah-pay oh pawr-tuh day z_ah-mee

[fra pe o pɔr tə de z_ami]

- m. 10 C'est Jésus-Christ** *It is Jesus Christ*
 seh zhay zee(lips puckered) kree
 [sɛ ʒe zy kri]
- m. 10 qui nous ordonne de réveiller les endormis!** *who orders us to awaken those who sleep!*
 kee nooz_ohr-daw-nuh duh reh-veh-yay lay z_aw(nasalized)-dawr-mee
 [ki nu z_ɔr dɔ nə də re vɛ je le z_ã dɔr mi]
- m. 13 Vous, qui dormez dans la nuit noire,** *You, who sleep in the black night,*
 voo kee dawr-may daw(nasalized) lah nwee nwah ruh
 [vu ki dɔr me dã la nuʝi nwa rə]
- m. 14 Ah! songez vous de temps en temps,** *Alas! Do you ever consider*
 ah soh(nasalized)-zhay voo duh taw(nasalized) z_aw(nasalized) taw(nasalized)
 [a sɔ̃ ze vu də tã z_ã tã]
- m. 15 (qu)'au feu flambant du Purgatoire** *That there in the blazing flames of Purgatory*
 (k)oh fuh flaw(nasalized)-baw(nasalized) dee(lips puckered) peer(lips puckered)-gah-twa-ruh
 [(k)o fɔ̃ flã bã dy pyr ga twarə]
- m. 15 soat, peut-être, tous vos parents?** *Are, perhaps, your relatives,*
 soh(nasalized) puh-teh-truh too voh pah-raw(nasalized)
 [sɔ̃ pø tɛ trə tu vo par ã]
- m. 16 Ils soat là vos pères, vos mères,** *They are there,—your fathers, your mothers,*
 eel soh(nasalized) lah voh peh-ruh voh meh-ruh
 [il sɔ̃ la vo pɛ rə vo mɛrə]
- m. 17 feu par-dessus, feu par-dessous,** *Flames above, flames beneath—*
 fuh pahr deh- see(lips puckered), fuh pahr-deh-soo
 [fɔ̃ par də sy fɔ̃ par də su]

m. 18 **espérant,** **en** **vain,** **les** **prières** *hoping, in vain, for the prayers*
eh-speh-raw(nasalized) aw(nasalized) veh(nasalized) lay pree-eh-ruh

[ε spe rã ã vɛ̃ le pri ε rə]

m. 19 **qui'ils ont** **droit** **d'espérer** **de** **vous!** *That they have a right to expect from you!*
keel z_oh(nasalized) drwah day-spay-ray duh voo

[kil z_õ drwa de spe re də vu]

m. 19 **Songez-vous** **qu'ils** **disent** **peut-être** *Imagine that they might be saying*
soh(nasalized)-zhay-voo keel dee-zuh puh-teh-truh

[sõ ze vu kil di zə pø tɛ trə]

m. 21 **À** **tous** **les** **Chrétiens** **d'ici-bas:** *To all the Christians here on earth:*
ah too lay kray-tyeh(nasalized) dee-see-bah

[a tu le kre tjɛ̃ di si bɑ]

m. 22 **Priez** **pour** **nous** **sans** **nous** **connaître,** *Pray for us though you do not know us,*
pree-yay poor noo saw(nasalized) noo kaw-neh-truh

[pri e pur nu sã nu kɔ nɛ trə]

m. 23 **Puisque** **nos** **gâs** **ne** **le** **font** **pas!** *Since our sons do not!*
pwee-skuh noh gah nuh luh foh(nasalized) pah

[pɥi skə no ga nə lə fõ pɑ]

m. 27 **Dañs** **le** **Purgatoirø** **oñ** **nous** **laisse,** *here in purgatory we are trapped,*
daw(nasalized) luh peer(lips puckered)-gah-twahr oh(nasalized) noo leh-suh

[dã læ pyr ga twar_õ nu lɛ sə]

m. 28 **Priez** **pour** **ceux** **qui** **ne** **prient** **pas!** *Pray for those who do not pray!*
pree-yay poor suh kee nuh pree-uh pah

[pri e pur sø ki nə pri ə pɑ]

m. 29 Priez pour nous!

Pray for us!

pree-yay poor noo

[pri e pur nu]

m. 29 Priez sans cesse

Pray endlessly,

pree-yay saw(nasalized) seh-suh

[pri e sã sɛ sɛ]

m. 30 puisque nos gâs sont des ingrats!

For our sons are ingrates!

pwee-skuh noh gah soh(nasalized) day z_ɛh(nasalized)-grah

[pɥi skə no ga sɔ̃ de z_ɛ̃-gra]