

Madre, mia non mi far monaca

Aria della Monica

Anon

Ma - dre, non mi far mo - na - ca che non mi vo - glio far; Non
mi ta - gliar la to - na - ca che non la vuo' por -

5 2.
tar. Tutt' il di^in co - ro al ves - pre'et et all mes - sa, e la madr' a - ba -

II
des - sa non fa ___ se non gri - dar, Che pos - se - la crep - par.

TRANSLATION: Mother, don't make me a nun because I don't want to be one; Don't tear the habit only because you do not want to wear it. All day in the choir at Vespers and at evening Mass and with the mother abbess, she does nothing but cry, that she may die.

Monica [monicha, monaca] (It.) was a tune popular in Italy, Germany, France, the Low Countries and England from the 16th century to the 18th. The title stems from the text that was associated with the melody in Italy, *Madre non mi far monaca*. It tells the story of a young girl forced to become a nun, a recurring theme in much Italian folk literature from the Middle Ages to the Renaissance. The tune is known in French settings as *Almande nonette*. J.S. Bach used it as a chorale. William Byrd's wrote three beautiful variations for harpsichord which he called *The Queenes Alman*, published in the Fitzwilliam Virginal Book (compositions from 1562-1612).