

## Multimedia from the 17th-Century Book to the 21st-Century Web: a playable digital edition of Michael Maier's *Atalanta fugiens*

*Atalanta fugiens* is a 17th-century book by German alchemist and physician Michael Maier. It is considered an early example of multimedia in that it is composed of 50 4-page sections, or “emblems”, which combine graphic illustration, poetry, prose, and notated music in the form of a musical fugue for three voices.

*Furnace and Fugue* (forthcoming with University of Virginia Press, Fall 2020, co-authored by Tara Nummedal and Donna Bilak) is an online digital edition developed as part of Brown University's Mellon-supported Digital Publications Initiative.

Our poster discusses the features and development process of the interactive music in this digital edition, including:

- animated notation that is synchronized with audio recordings that were performed and recorded for this publication. so that users can easily connect notation with live performance
- the ability of the user to isolate the playback of individual voices
- a piano roll visualization which is also synchronized with audio playback

Merging early modern polyphonic notation with recordings of live musical performance into an interactive web product proved to be a tricky technical challenge -- full of dead ends, false starts, and unforeseen complications. We present an overview of some of these challenges and our final implementation solution. We also provide links to a repository containing our code, which is available under an open source license.

The screenshot displays the digital edition interface for Emblem 37 from Michael Maier's *Atalanta fugiens*. The interface is divided into two main sections: the original 17th-century emblem page on the left and a modernized digital version on the right. The original page features a lion with a crown and a city in the background, with Latin text and a musical score. The digital version includes a play button, a 'Hear/mute Atalanta fugiens' button, and a modernized English translation of the text and music. The interface also includes a search bar and navigation links for Digital Edition, Essays, Images, and Contents.

Screenshot of Emblem 37 from the *Furnace and Fugue* digital edition.