

# O dear life

William Byrd (c.1540-1623)

Superius  
[Alto]

Medius  
[Tenor]

Contratenor  
[Tenor]

Tenor  
[Baritone]

Bassus  
[Bass]

O dear life, O dear life, when  
O dear life when may it be, when  
O dear life when  
O dear life when may it be, when

O dear life, when may it be,  
may it be, when may it be, that mine  
may it be, when may it be, that  
may it be, O dear life when may it be,  
may it be, when may it be, that mine

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that mine eyes thine eyes may see, and in  
eyes thine eyes may see, thine eyes may see, and in them, and in  
mine eyes thine eyes may see, and in them my mind dis -  
that mine eyes, that mine eyes thine eyes may see, thine  
eyes thine eyes may see, thine eyes may see, thine eyes may see,



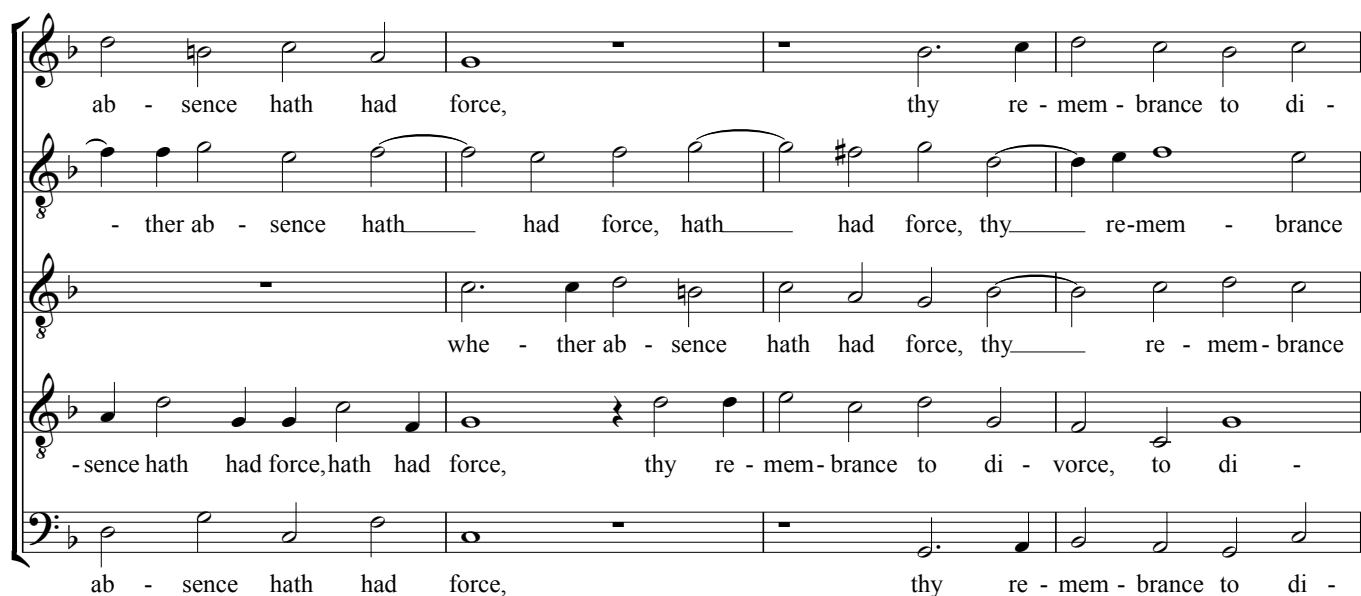
them my mind dis - co-ver, whe - ther

them my mind dis - co-ver, and in them my mind dis - co - ver, whe -

-co - ver, and in them my mind dis - co - ver,

eyes may see, and in them my mind dis - co-ver, whe - ther ab -

and in them my mind dis - - - co - ver, whe - ther



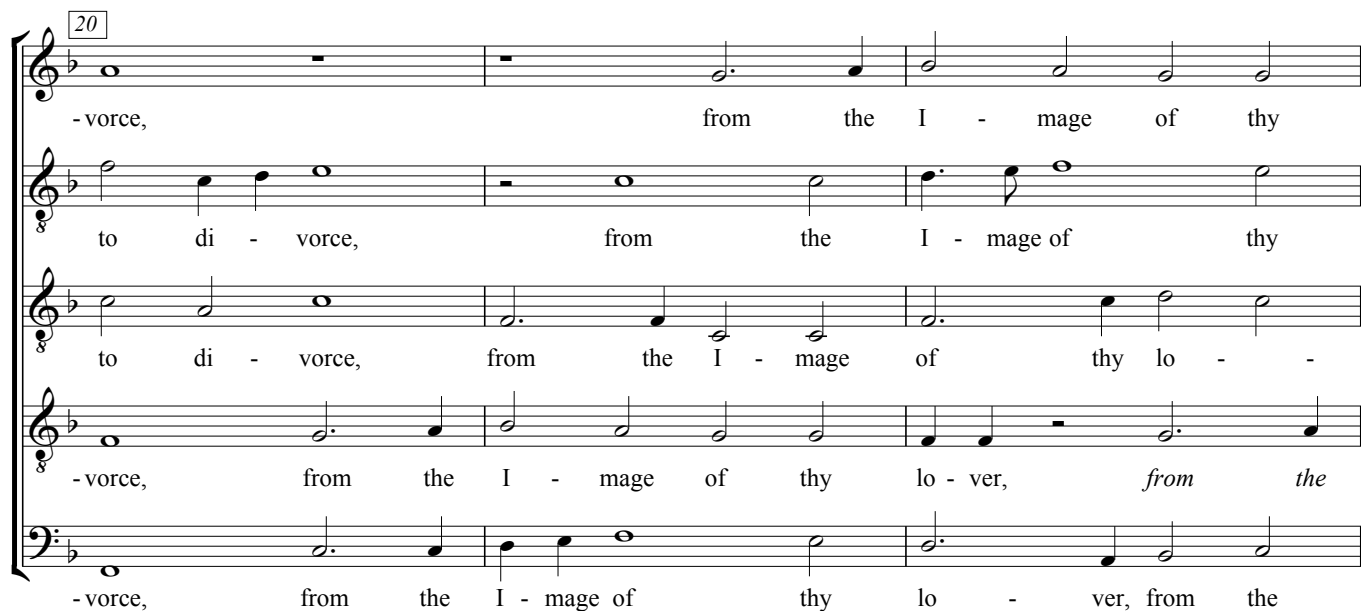
ab - sence hath had force, thy re - mem - brance to di -

- ther ab - sence hath had force, hath had force, thy re-mem - brance

whe - ther ab - sence hath had force, thy re - mem - brance

- sence hath had force, hath had force, thy re - mem - brance to di - vorce, to di -

ab - sence hath had force, thy re - mem - brance to di -



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- vorce, from the I - mage of thy

to di - vorce, from the I - mage of thy

to di - vorce, from the I - mage of thy lo - -

- vorce, from the I - mage of thy lo - ver, from the

- vorce, from the I - mage of thy lo - ver, from the

lo - ver, from the I - mage of thy lo - ver.

lo - ver, from the I - mage of thy lo - ver.

- ver, from the I - mage of thy lo - ver.

I - mage of thy lo - ver, of thy lo - ver.

I - mage of thy lo - ver, of thy lo - ver.

O Deere life, when may it be,  
 that mine eyes thine eyes may see,  
 And in them my minde discover,  
 Whether absence hath had force,  
 Thy remembrance to deforce,  
 From the Image of thy lover.

O, if I my selfe finde not,  
 though my parting ought forgot  
 Nor debarred from beauties treasure  
 Let no tongue aspie to tell  
 In what hie loyes I shall dwell,  
 Onely thought aymes at the pleasure.

Thought therefore I will send thee  
 To take up the place for me,  
 Long I will not after tary,  
 There unseen thou maist be bold  
 These faire wonders to behold,  
 Which in them my hopes do cary.

Source: William Byrd, *Songs of sundrie natures...* (London, 1589-1610), no.33 (34 in 1610 edition).

Text: Sir Philip Sidney (1554-86): the Tenth Song from *Astrophel and Stella*.

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