

Is Love a boy?

William Byrd (c.1540-1623)

Superius

Contratenor

Tenor

Bassus

Is love a

Is love a boy? is love a boy? a boy,

Is love a boy? is love a boy, a boy,

Is love a boy?

boy? what means he then to strike, what means he then to strike?

is love a boy? what means he then to strike, what means he then to strike? or

is love a boy? what means he then to strike, what means he then to strike?

is love a boy? what means he then to strike, to strike,

or is he blind? why will he be a guide, is he a man? is he a

is he blind, or is he blind? why will he be a guide, is he a man,

or is he blind? or is he blind? why will he be a guide, is he a man? why

or is he blind? why will he be a guide, is he a man?

10 man? why doth he hurt his like, why doth he hurt his like?

why doth he hurt his like, why doth he hurt his like? is he a God,

doth he hurt his like, why doth he hurt his like? is

is he a man? why doth he hurt his like,

15

is he a God? is he a God? why doth he men de - ride, why
 is he a God, is he a God? why doth he men de - ride, why
 he a God? is he a God, a God, is he a God?

-ride, why doth he men de - ride, doth he men de-ride, why doth he men de - ride, de - ride, why doth he
 why doth he men de - ride, why doth he men de - ride, de - ride, why doth he men de - ride, de-ride, why

20

why doth he men de - ride, de - ride, de - ride? men de - ride, why doth he men de - ride, de - ride, de - ride?
 why doth he men de - ride, de - ride, de - ride? doth he men de - ride, why doth he men de - ride, why doth he men de - ride?

25

No one of these but one com - No one of these, no one of these, of these, of these, no one of these but
 No one of these, no one of these, of these, of these, no one of these, but one com -
 No one of these, no one of

- pact of all, but one com-pact of all, a wil - ful boy,
 one com-pact of all, but one com-pact of all, a wil - ful boy, a wil - ful
 - pact of all, but one com - pact of all, a wil - ful boy, a
 these, but one com - pact of all, of all, a wil - ful

30
 a man still deal - ing blows, of pur-pose blind, of pur-pose
 boy, a man still deal - ing blows, of pur-pose blind,
 wil - ful boy, a man still deal - ing blows, of pur-pose blind, to
 boy, a man still deal - ing blows, of pur-pose blind,

blind, to lead men to their thrall, to lead men to their thrall,
 to lead men to their thrall, to lead men to their thrall, a God that rules,
 lead men to their thrall, to lead men to their thrall, a
 of pur-pose blind, to lead men to their thrall,

35
 a God that rules, a God that rules, un - ru - ly, God he
 a God that rules, a God that rules, un - ru - ly, God he knows, un -
 God that rules, a God that rules, that rules,
 a God that rules, a God that rules,

40

knows, un - ru - ly, God he knows, -ru - ly, God he knows, un - ru - ly, God he knows, he knows, un - ru - ly, un - ru - ly, God he knows, un - ru - ly, God he knows, God he knows, un - ru - ly, God he knows, he knows, un -

un - ru - ly, God he knows, God he knows, God he knows. God he knows, un - ru - ly, God he knows, he knows, God he knows. un - ru - ly, God he knows, God he knows, God he knows. -ru - ly, God he knows, un - ru - ly, God he knows, un - ru - ly, God he knows.

The second part

45

Boy pi - ty me that am a child a - gain, boy pi - ty me that am a Boy pi - ty me that am a child a - gain, Boy pi - ty me that am a child a - gain, that am a child a - gain, blind Boy pi - ty me that am a child a - gain, that am a child a - gain,

50

child a - gain, blind be no more, blind

blind be no more my guide to make me stray, my guide

be no more my guide to make me stray, to make me stray, blind

blind be no more my guide to make me stray,

be no more, my guide to make me stray, to make me

to make me stray, to make me

be no more to make me stray, my guide to make me stray, to make me

blind be no more my guide, to make me

55

stray, man use thy might to force a-way my pain, to force a -

stray, man use thy might, man use thy might to force a-way, to force a-way my pain, to

stray, man use thy might, man use thy might to force a-way my pain, to

stray, man use thy might, to force a - way my pain, to force a-way my

60

-way my pain, to force a - way my pain, God do me good, God

force a-way my pain, my pain, God do me good, God do me good, do

force a-way my pain, God do me good, God do me good, God do me

pain, to force a - way my pain, God do me good, God do me good,

65

do me good, and lead me to my way, and lead me to my

— me good, and lead me to my way, and lead me to my way, to

good, and lead me to my way, and lead me to my way, and

God do me good, and lead me to my way, to my way,

way, and lead me to my way:

my way, and lead me to my way: And if thou

lead me to my way, to my way: And if thou beest

and lead me to my way, to my way: And if thou beest

70

And if _____ thou beest a power _____ to me un -

beest a power to me un - known, and if thou beest a power to me un -

— a power to me _____ un - known, *and if thou beest a power to*

— a power to me _____ un - known, to me un - known,

75

-known, power of my life, let here thy grace be_____

- known, un - known, power of my life, let here thy grace be

me_____ un-known, a power to me un - known, power of my life,

power of my life, of my life, power of my life, let here thy

80

shown, let here thy grace be shown, let here thy grace be shown, let here thy grace be shown. And if thou shown. And if thou beest shown.

Source: William Byrd, *Songs of sundrie natures...* (London, 1589-1610), nos.15-16.

Prefatory bars: *ts* ♩ in 1589 edition, all parts.

III.73.4: sharp following note.

Part of my complete edition of the published vocal works of William Byrd made available through the Choral Public Domain Library (<http://www.cpd.org>). For general editorial notes, please visit my user page at <http://www.cpd.org/wiki/index.php/User:DaveF>. All scores are made freely available according to the CPDL Licence for downloading, printing, performing and recording. No further conditions are or can be attached, although it's always good to hear of any performances. Please do not, without consulting me, make copies of my scores available through other websites – there's no need, first of all, as CPDL is always here, and secondly by doing so you put these editions beyond my control and so will miss out on any updates and revisions.