Diliges Dominum
Canon VIII voc.
William Byrd (c.1540-1623)

Superius
Primus
[Soprano 1]

Contratenor
[Primas]
[Alto 1]

Tenor
Primus
[Tenor 1]

Bassus
[Primas]
[Bass 1]

Superius
Secundus
[Soprano 2]

Contratenor
[Secundus]
[Alto 2]

Tenor
Secundus
[Tenor 2]

Bassus
[Secundus]
[Bass 2]

Di-lig-es Do-mi-num De-um tu-um

ex to-to cor-de tu-o, ex to-to cor-de,
to-to cor-de tu-o, tu-o, ex to-to cor-
cor-de tu-o, tu-o, ex to-to cor-de tu-o,

ex to-to cor-de tu-o, ex to-to cor-de tu-
um tu-
um, ex to-to cor-de tu-o, ex to-to cor-de tu-

um, ex to-to cor-de tu-o, tu-o, ex

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Thou shalt love the Lord thy God from thy whole heart, and with thy whole soul, and with thy whole mind. Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself.


Text: Matthew 22: 37, 39

Heading in each partbook: *Duæ partes in una rectè et retro* (Two parts in one forward and retrograde): each *secundus* part is the simple retrograde of the corresponding *primus*.

The retrograde part in each partbook has the peculiarity that its words are printed above the stave upside-down, although the notes are to be read the right way up, albeit from right to left. This method of printing was perhaps considered to pose less of a challenge to performers of the *secundus* parts than having the text printed backwards.