

Where griping grief

Richard Edwards (1524-1566)

Where gri - ping grief the heart would
 In joy it makes our mirth a -
 The Gods by Mu - sic have their
 Oh heav'n - ly gift, that turns the

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wound, and dole - ful dumps the mind op - press,
 bound, in grief it cheers our hea - vy sprights,
 praise, the soul there - in doth joy;
 mind, like as the stern doth rule the ship,

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10

there mu - sic with her sil - ver sound
 the care - ful head re - lief hath found,
 for as the Ro - man po - ets say,
 of mu - sic whom the Gods as - signed,

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14

is wont with speed to give re - dress;
 by mu - sic's plea - sant sweet de - lights,
 in seas whom pi - rates would de - stroy,
 to com - fort man whom cares would nip,

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18

of trou - bled minds, for e - ve - ry sore, sweet
 our sen - ses, what should I say more, are
 a dol - phin sav' d from death most sharp, A -
 sith thou both man and beast doth move, what

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Mu - sic hath a salve in store.
 sub - ject un - to mu - sic' s law.
 ri - on play ing on his harp.
 wise man then will thee re - prove.

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From *Romeo and Juliet*, Shakespeare, Act IV Scene 5

Peter: Then have at you with my wit! I will dry-beat you with an iron wit, and put up my iron dagger.
 —Answer me like men:

"When griping grief the heart doth wound,
 And doleful dumps the mind oppress,
 Then music with her silver sound"—

why "silver sound" ? why "music with her silver sound" ?— What say you, Simon Catling?

Musician: Marry, sir, because silver hath a sweet sound.

Peter: Pretty!—What say you, Hugh Rebeck?

Musician: I say "silver sound" because musicians sound for silver.

Peter: Pretty too!—What say you, James Soundpost?

Musician: Faith, I know not what to say.

Peter: O, I cry you mercy; you are the singer: I will say for you. It is "music with her silver sound" because musicians have no gold for sounding:—

"Then music with her silver sound
 With speedy help doth lend redress."