

# Ambitious love

William Byrd (c.1540-1623)

Superius  
Am - bi - ti - ous love hath forced me to a - spire,

Medius  
Am - bi - ti - ous love hath forced me to a - spire,

Contratenor  
Am - bi - ti - ous love hath forced me to a - spire,

Tenor  
Am - bi - ti - ous love hath forced me to a - spire,

Bassus  
Am - bi - ti - ous love hath forced me to a - spire, a - spire

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the beau - ties rare which do a - dorn thy face: Thy

the beau - ties rare which do a - dorn thy face: Thy mo - dest life

the beau - ties rare which do a - dorn thy face: Thy mo -

the beau - ties rare which do a - dorn thy face: Thy mo - dest life yet

the beau - ties rare which do a - dorn thy face: Thy


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mo - dest life yet bri - dles my de - sire,

yet bri - dles my de - sire, de - sire, whose se - vere

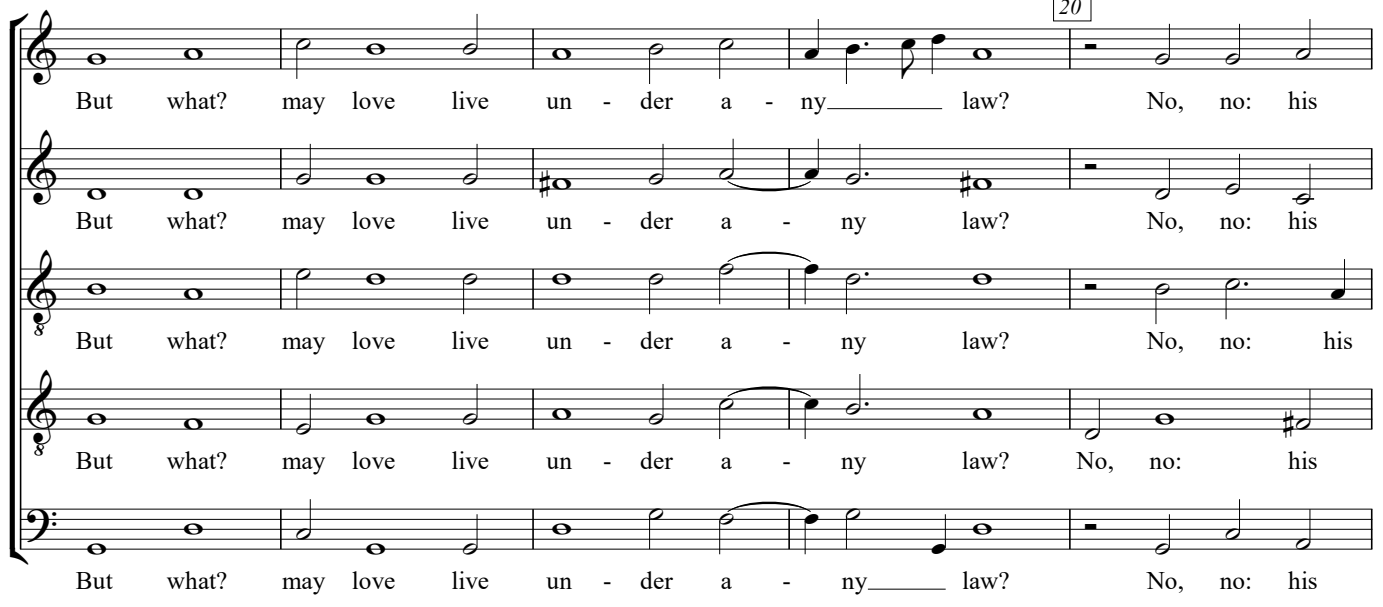
-dest life yet bri - dles my de - sire, whose se - vere

bri - dles my de - sire, whose se - vere law doth

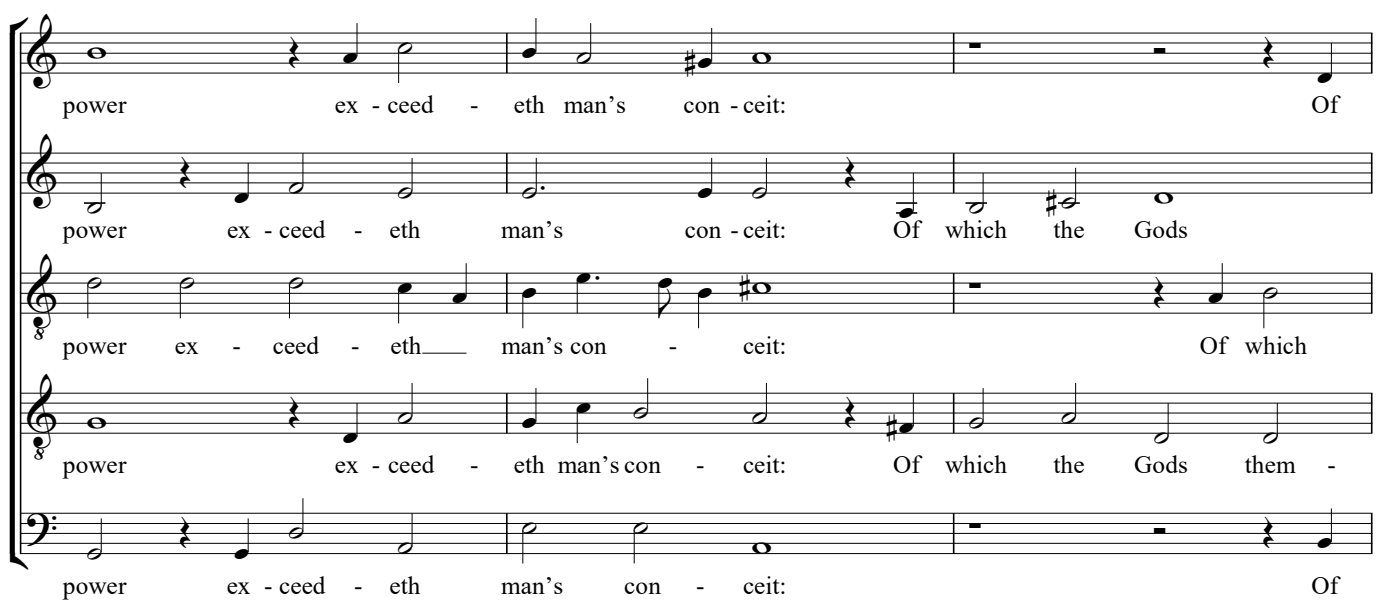
mo - dest life yet bri - dles my de - sire, whose se - vere



whose se - vere law doth pro - mise me no grace.  
 law doth pro - mise me no grace, no grace, no grace.  
 law, whose se - vere law doth pro - mise me no grace.  
 pro - mise me no grace, doth pro - mise me no grace.  
 law, doth pro - mise me no grace, no grace.



But what? may love live un - der a - ny law? No, no: his  
 But what? may love live un - der a - ny law? No, no: his  
 But what? may love live un - der a - ny law? No, no: his  
 But what? may love live un - der a - ny law? No, no: his  
 But what? may love live un - der a - ny law? No, no: his



power ex - ceed - eth man's con - ceit: Of  
 power ex - ceed - eth man's con - ceit: Of which the Gods  
 power ex - ceed - eth man's con - ceit: Of which  
 power ex - ceed - eth man's con - ceit: Of which the Gods them -  
 power ex - ceed - eth man's con - ceit: Of

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which the Gods them-selves do stand in awe,  
 them - selves do stand in awe, in awe, for on his  
 the Gods them-selves do stand in awe, for on his  
 -selves do stand in awe, for on his frown, a  
 which the Gods them-selves do stand in awe, for on his

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for on his frown, a thou - sand tor - ments wait.  
 frown, a thou-sand tor - ments wait, tor - ments wait.  
 frown, for on his frown a thou-sand tor - ments wait.  
 thou-sand tor - ments wait, a thou - sand tor - ments wait.  
 frown, a thou - sand tor - ments wait, tor - ments wait.

Pro - ceed then in this de - spe-rate en - ter - prise, with good ad - vice, and  
 Pro - ceed then in this de - spe-rate en - ter-prise, with good ad - vice, and  
 Pro - ceed then in this de - spe-rate en - ter - prise, with good ad - vice,  
 Pro - ceed then in this de-spe - rate en - ter - prise, with good ad - vice, ad - vice,  
 Pro - ceed then in this de - spe-rate en - ter-prise, with good ad - vice, and

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fol-low love thy guide, that leads thee to thy wish-ed Pa-ra-dise, to  
 fol-low, and fol-low love thy guide, that leads thee to thy wish-ed Pa-ra-  
 and fol-low love thy guide, and fol-low love thy guide, that leads  
 and fol-low love thy guide, that leads thee to, that leads thee to thy  
 fol-low love thy guide, that leads thee to thy wish-ed Pa-ra-dise, that leads thee

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thy wish-ed Pa-ra-dise, Pa-ra-dise. Thy climb-ing  
 -dise, to thy wish-ed Pa-ra-dise, Pa-ra-dise. Thy climb-ing  
 thee to thy wish-ed Pa-ra-dise, Pa-ra-dise. Thy climb-ing  
 wish-ed Pa-ra-dise, to thy wish-ed Pa-ra-dise. Thy climb-ing  
 to thy wish-ed Pa-ra-dise, Pa-ra-dise. Thy climb-ing

thoughts, this com-fort take with-al, that if it be, thy foul dis-grace to slide,  
 thoughts, this com-fort take with-al, that if it be, if it be thy foul dis-grace to  
 thoughts, this com-fort take with-al, that if it be, thy foul dis-grace to  
 thoughts this com-fort take with-al, that if it be, it be thy foul dis-grace to slide,  
 thoughts this com-fort take with-al, that if it be, thy foul dis-grace to slide, thy

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thy brave at - tempt, shall yet ex - cuse thy fall, thy brave at -  
 slide, thy brave at - tempt shall yet ex - cuse thy fall, thy brave  
 slide, thy fowl dis - grace to slide, thy brave at - tempt, shall yet ex - cuse thy -  
 thy brave at - tempt, thy brave at - tempt shall yet ex - cuse thy fall, thy -  
 brave at - tempt, shall yet ex - cuse thy fall, thy brave at - tempt shall yet ex - cuse thy fall,

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-tempt shall yet ex - cuse thy fall, shall yet ex - cuse thy fall.  
 at - tempt shall yet ex - cuse thy fall, shall yet ex - cuse thy fall.  
 fall, thy fall, shall yet ex - cuse thy fall.  
 - brave at - tempt shall yet ex - cuse thy fall, thy fall.  
 thy brave at - tempt shall yet ex - cuse thy fall.

Source: William Byrd, *Psalmes, Sonets, & songs of sadnes and pietie* (London, 1588), no.18.

I.16.1: - *l* in 1607 edition.

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