

# From silent night

To my loving Country-man Mr. *John Forster* the younger, Merchant of Dublin in Ireland.

John Dowland (c.1563-1626)

Cantus [Treble viol]

Altus

Bassus [Bass viol]

Lute

From silent night, true re -

Lute tuning: D, G, c, f, a, d', g'

10

- gis-ter of moans, From sad - dest Soul con-sumed

20

with deep - est sins, From heart quite

rent with sighs, with sighs and hea - vy groans, My

30

— wail - ing Muse her woe, her woe, her woe - ful

Chord chart for guitar (treble and bass clefs):

c	c	a	d	c	a	c	d	c	a	c	d	d	c	e	a	a	a	e	d	c	a
e	c	a	e	c	c	e	e	c	d	e	c	e	c	e	b	c		f	a		

work be - gins. And to the world brings tunes of sad des - pair,

Chord chart for guitar (treble and bass clefs):

e	c	e	e	a	b	a	a	a	a	d	c	a	e	a	a	a	c	b	b	a	d	
c	e	c	e	c	c	e	a	a	e	e	c	b	e	c	a	d	a	a	e	c	b	b

40

And to the world brings tunes of sad des - pair,

Chord chart for guitar (treble and bass clefs):

b	d	b	a	c	d	a	b	d	a	a	d	a	c	d	c	a	c	d	a	a	b
b	c	d	e	a	a	e	e	c	b	e	e	c	b	e	e	c	b	e	e	c	c

50

Sound - ing nought else but sor - row, sor - row, nought

Chord chart for guitar (treble and bass clefs):

g	h	g	c	c	e	c	f	d	d	c	a	d	a	c	c	a	d	a	c	c	a
g	h	g	e	d	b	e	c		c	e	c	a	d	e	b	d	a	d	e	a	a

— else, *nought else* but sor-row, nought else but sor - - row, grief

— and care. And care.

From silent night, true register of moanes,  
 From saddest Soule consumde with deepest sinnes,  
 From hart quite rent with sighes and heavie groanes,  
 My wayling Muse her wofull worke beginnes.  
 And to the world brings tunes of sad despaire,  
 Sounding nought else but sorrow, grieffe and care.

If any eye therefore can spare a teare  
 to fill the well-spring that must wet my cheekes,  
 O let that eye to this sad feast draw neere,  
 refuse me not my humble soule beseekes:  
 For all the teares mine eyes have ever wept  
 Were now too little had they all beene kept.

Sorrow to see my sorrowes cause augmented,  
 and yet lesse sorrowfull were my sorrowes more:  
 Grieffe that my grieffe with grieffe is not prevented,  
 for grieffe it is must east my grieved sore.  
 Thus grieffe and sorrow cares but how to grieve,  
 For grieffe and sorrow must my cares relieve.

Source: John Dowland, *A Pilgrimes Solace* (London, 1612), no.10.

Altus: titled "Cantus".

I.1.3: sharp supplied by lute tablature

I.19.1: minim rest

I.20.1: crotchet

I.38.2: flat supplied by lute tablature

Lute.41.1: printed as two separate quavers, G-d' (open *G* & *d* strings) followed by b (*c* on *a* string)

I.45.1: sharp supplied by lute tablature

Lute.46.2: dotted crotchet

I.49.3: semibreve

III.50.1: redundant sharp (= natural)

III.50.2: sharp supplied by lute tablature

III.51.2: sharp

II.58: breve