

O dear life

William Byrd (c.1540-1623)

Superius [Alto]
Medius [Tenor]
Contratenor [Tenor]
Tenor [Baritone]
Bassus [Bass]

O dear life, O dear life, when
O dear life when may it be, when
O dear life when
O dear life when may it be, when

O dear life, when may it be,
may it be, when may it be, that mine
may it be, when may it be, that
may it be, O dear life when may it be,
may it be, when may it be, that mine

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that mine eyes thine eyes may see, and in
eyes thine eyes may see, thine eyes may see, and in them, and in
mine eyes thine eyes may see, and in them my mind dis -
that mine eyes, that mine eyes thine eyes may see, thine
eyes thine eyes may see, thine eyes may see, thine eyes may see,

them my mind dis - co-ver, whe - ther

them my mind dis - co-ver, and in them my mind dis - co - ver, whe -

-co - ver, and in them my mind dis - co - ver,

eyes may see, and in them my mind dis - co-ver, whe - ther ab -

and in them my mind dis - - - co - ver, whe - ther

ab - sence hath had force, thy re - mem - brance to di -

- ther ab - sence hath had force, hath had force, thy re - mem - brance

whe - ther ab - sence hath had force, thy re - mem - brance

- sence hath had force, hath had force, thy re - mem - brance to di - vorce, to di -

ab - sence hath had force, thy re - mem - brance to di -

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- vorce, from the I - mage of thy

to di - vorce, from the I - mage of thy

to di - vorce, from the I - mage of thy lo - -

- vorce, from the I - mage of thy lo - ver, from the

- vorce, from the I - mage of thy lo - ver, from the

lo - ver, from the I - mage of thy lo - ver.

lo - ver, from the I - mage of thy lo - ver.

- ver, from the I - mage of thy lo - ver.

I - mage of thy lo - ver, of thy lo - ver.

I - mage of thy lo - ver, of thy lo - ver.

O Deere life, when may it be,
 that mine eyes thine eyes may see,
 And in them my minde discover,
 Whether absence hath had force,
 Thy remembrance to deforce,
 From the Image of thy lover.

O, if I my selfe finde not,
 though my parting ought forgot
 Nor debar'd from beauties treasure
 Let no tongue aspie'r to tell
 In what hie loyes I shall dwell,
 Onely thought aymes at the pleasure.

Thought therefore I will send thee
 To take up the place for me,
 Long I will not after tary,
 There unseen thou maist be bold
 These faire wonders to behold,
 Which in them my hopes do cary.

Source: William Byrd, *Songs of sundrie natures...* (London, 1589-1610), no.33 (34 in 1610 edition).
 Text: Sir Philip Sidney (1554-86): the Tenth Song from *Astrophel and Stella*.

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