

An earthly tree

A Carol for Christmas day

William Byrd (c.1540-1623)

Musical score for the first system of 'An earthly tree'. The score is in 4/2 time and common time (C). It features six staves: Superius [Alto], Sextus [Alto], Contratenor [Treble Viol], Tenor [Tenor Viol], Medius [Tenor Viol], and Bassus [Bass Viol]. The Superius and Sextus parts are mostly rests. The Contratenor, Tenor, Medius, and Bassus parts contain the vocal melody and accompaniment.

Musical score for the second system of 'An earthly tree'. The score continues from the first system. It features six staves: Superius [Alto], Sextus [Alto], Contratenor [Treble Viol], Tenor [Tenor Viol], Medius [Tenor Viol], and Bassus [Bass Viol]. The lyrics are: "An earth - ly tree a heaven - ly fruit it bare, A case of clay". A box containing the number "10" is positioned above the Superius staff.

con-tained a crown im - mor - tal,

a crown of crowns a king

The first system of the musical score consists of six staves. The top two staves are vocal lines. The first vocal line contains the lyrics "con-tained a crown im - mor - tal," and the second vocal line contains "a crown of crowns a king". The piano accompaniment is spread across the bottom four staves, including a grand staff (treble and bass clefs) and two additional bass staves. The music is in a key with one sharp (F#) and a 4/4 time signature.

re - deemed poor man, whose race be - fore was

whose cost and care

The second system of the musical score also consists of six staves. The top two staves are vocal lines. The first vocal line contains the lyrics "re - deemed poor man, whose race be - fore was" and has a box containing the number "20" above it. The second vocal line contains "whose cost and care". The piano accompaniment is spread across the bottom four staves, including a grand staff and two additional bass staves. The music continues in the same key and time signature as the first system.

thral, to death, to doom, to pains of ev - er - last - ing,

to death, to doom, to pains of ev - er - - last - ing,

The first system of the musical score consists of six staves. The top two staves are vocal lines with lyrics. The bottom four staves are piano accompaniment, including a grand staff (treble and bass clefs) and a separate bass line. The music is in a key with one sharp (F#) and a common time signature.

by his sweet death, by his sweet

by his sweet death, by his sweet death, scorns,

The second system of the musical score consists of six staves. The top two staves are vocal lines with lyrics. The bottom four staves are piano accompaniment, including a grand staff (treble and bass clefs) and a separate bass line. The music continues in the same key and time signature as the first system.

30

death, scorns, stripes and of - - ten

— stripes and of - - ten fast - ing,

fast - ing, scorns, stripes and of - - - - ten fast - ing.

scorns, stripes and of - - - - - - - ten fast - ing.

Superius [Alto] 40

Cast off all doubt - ful care, all doubt - ful care,

Contratenor [Alto]

Cast off all doubt - ful care, all doubt - ful care, cast off all doubt - ful

Tenor [Tenor]

Cast off all doubt - ful, doubt - ful

Bassus [Bass]

Cast off all doubt - ful

ex - ile and ban - - ish tears, to joy - ful news di - vine, di - vine, to

care, ex - ile and ban - ish tears, to joy - ful news di -

care, ex - ile and ban - ish tears, to joy - ful news di - vine, di - vine,

care, ex - ile and ban - ish tears, to joy - ful

[o. → o.]

joy - ful news di - vine, di - vine, to joy - ful news di - vine, di - - -

- vine, to joy - ful news di - vine, to joy - ful news di - vine, di -

to joy - ful news di - vine, to joy - ful news di -

news di - vine, to joy - ful news di - vine, to joy - ful news di - vine, di -

-vine, lend us your list' - ning -

-vine, lend us your list' - ning

-vine, lend us your list' - ning ears,

-vine, lend us your

50

ears, lend

ears, your list' - ning ears, lend us your list' - ning

lend us your list' - ning

list' - ning ears, your list' - ning ears,

us your list' - ning ears, lend us your list' - ning ears, lend

ears, lend us your

ears, lend us your list' - ning ears, your list' - ning ears,

lend us your list' - ning

us your list' - ning ears, lend us your list' - ning

list' - ning ears, lend

list' - ning ears, your list' - ning ears, list' - ning

ears, your list' - ning ears, lend us your

ears, your list' - ning ears.
us your list' - - - ning ears.
ears, lend us your list' - ning ears.
list' - ning ears.

An earthly tree a heavenly fruit it bare,
A case of clay containd a crowne immortall,
A crowne of crownes, a king whose cost & care
Redeemd poore man, whose race before was thrall
To death, to dome, to paines of everlasting,
By his sweet death, skornes, strypes, & often fasting.

A Starre above the Starres, a Sonne of light,
Whose blessed beames this wretched earth bespred
With hope of Heaven and of Gods sonne the sight
Which in our flesh and sinfull soule lay dead,
O fayth, O hope, O joyes renownd for ever,
O lively lyfe that deathlesse shall persever.

Then let us sing the lullabyes of sleepe,
To this sweet babe, borne to awake us all,
From drowsie sinne that made old Adam weepe,
And by his fault gave to mankinde the fall,
For loe this day, the byrth day, day of dayes,
Somons our songs to give him laud & praise.

Cast of all doubtfull care, exile and banish teares,
To joyfull newes devine, lend us your listning eares.

Source: William Byrd, *Songs of sundrie natures...* (London, 1589-1610) nos. 40 & 25 (42 & 24 in 1610 edition).

Sextus, prefatory bar: the voice-range shown includes that of the Contratenor in the chorus.

38-47: note-values halved in sections in black notation

II.38.2: *ts* 3

I.39: *ts* 3

III.40: *ts* 3

IV.40.2: *ts* 3

III.43: *ts* 3

I.43.3: *ts* 3

II.44: *ts* 3

IV.44.2: *ts* 3

III.47.2: *ts* 3

III.48: *ts* C (the sole indication in any partbook of a return to imperfect time)

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