

The nightingale so pleasant and so gay

William Byrd (c.1540-1623)

Songs of sundrie natures (London, 1589)

Superius

Tenor

Bassus

The nigh - tin - gale so

The nigh - tin - gale so plea - sant and so gay, and so

5

plea - sant and so gay, so plea - sant and so gay, in green - wood groves,

gay, so plea - sant and so gay, and so gay, in green - wood

The nigh - tin - gale so plea - sant and so gay, in

de-lights to make his dwel - ling, his dwel - ling, de-lights to make his dwel -

groves, de-lights to make his dwel - ling, de - lights to make his dwel - ling,

green - wood groves, de-lights to make his dwel - ling, in

10

ling, in fields to fly, to fly, chan - ting his roun - de -

in fields to fly, to fly, in fields to fly, to fly, chan - ting his

fields to fly, to fly, chan - ting his roun - de - lay,

lay, chan-ting his roun - de - lay, at li - ber-ty,
 roun - de-lay, his roun-de - lay, at li - ber-ty, at li - ber-ty, a -
 chan-ting his roun - de - lay, his roun-de-lay, at li - ber-ty, a - gainst the

15 a - gainst the cage re - bel - - - ling. a - gainst the cage re - bel -
 gainst the cage re - bel - ling. a - gainst the cage re - bel - - -
 cage re - bel - ling. a - gainst the cage re - bel - ling, re - bel - - - ling.

20 ling. But my_poor heart, my poor heart with sor - rows_ o-ver swel - ling, with sor -
 ling. But my poor heart, but my poor heart, but my poor heart with
 But my poor heart, my_poor heart, but_ my poor heart with sor-rows o-ver swel - ling,

- rows o - ver_ swel - ling, through bon-dage vile, bin - ding my free-dom
 sor-rows o-ver swel - ling, through bon-dage vile, bin - ding my free-dom short,
 with sor - rows o - ver swel - ling, through bon-dage vile, bin -

25

short, bin - ding my free - dom short, bin - ding my free - dom short, no plea -
bin - ding my free - dom short, bin - ding my free - dom short, no plea -
- ding my free - dom short, my free - dom short, my free - dom short, my free - dom short,

30

- sure takes, no plea - - sure takes in these his sports ex - cel -
- - sure takes, in these his sports ex - cel - ling, in these his sports ex - cel -
no plea - - sure takes, no plea - sure takes in these his sports ex -

- ling, nor in his song re - cei - veth no com - fort, nor in his song re - cei -
- ling, in these his sports ex - cel - ling, ex - cel - ling,
cel - ling, in these his sports ex - cel - ling, nor in his song re - cei - veth no -

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veth no com - fort, nor in his song re - cei - veth no com - fort, nor
nor in his song re - cei - veth no com - fort, nor in his song re - cei -
- com - fort, nor in his song re - cei - veth no com - fort, nor

The musical score consists of three staves. The top staff is the vocal line, starting with a treble clef and a 6/2 time signature. The lyrics are: "in his song re-cei - veth, nor in his song re-cei - veth no com - fort, no com - fort." The middle staff is a piano accompaniment, starting with a treble clef. The lyrics are: "veth, nor in his song re-cei - veth, nor in his song re-cei - veth no com - fort." The bottom staff is another piano accompaniment, starting with a bass clef and a 6/2 time signature. The lyrics are: "in his song re-cei - veth no com - fort, nor in his song re - cei - veth no com - fort." The score ends with a double bar line and the number 40.

The nightingale so pleasant and so gay,
 in greenwood groves, delights to make his dwelling,
 in fields to fly, chanting his roundelay,
 at liberty, against the cage rebelling.
 But my poor heart with sorrows over swelling,
 through bondage vile, binding my freedom short,
 no pleasure takes in these his sports excelling,
 nor in his song receiveth no comfort.