

# Byrd, William - Who likes to love

Psalmes, Sonnets and Songs... (1588), no. 13

William Byrd  
(c.1540-1623)

Intavolierung - Anton Höger

Soprano

Who likes to love let him take

Git. 1

Git. 2

5

heed, — and wot you why, A-mong the

5

5

10

Gods it is de-creed, that Love shall die,

15

and ev-ery wight that takes his part, — shall for-feit

20

each, a mourning heart. And ev-ery wight that takes his

25

part, — shall for-feit each, a mourning heart.

25

25

Who likes to love let him take heed,  
and wot you why?  
Among the Gods it is decreed  
that love shall die,  
and every wight that takes his part  
shall forfeit each a mourning heart.

The cause is this as I have heard  
a sort of dames  
Whose beauty he did not regard  
Nor secret flames  
Complained before the gods above  
That gold corrupts the God of love.

The gods did storm to hear this news  
and there they swore  
that sith he did such dames abuse  
he should no more  
be god of lovem but that he should  
both die and forfeit all his gold.

His bow and shafts they took away  
before their eyes  
and gave these dames a longer day  
for to devise  
who should them keep, and they be bound  
that love for gold should not be found.

These ladies, striving long, at last  
they did agree  
to give then to a maiden chaste,  
whom I did see,  
who with the same did pierce my heart  
her beauty's rare and so I rest.