

# If that a sinner's sighs

Psalmes, sonets, & songs, 1588, no.30

William Byrd

Soprano

1. If that a sin - ner's sighs, if that a sin - ner's sighs be\_\_\_  
 2. If I had Da - vid's crown, if I had Da - vid's crown to\_\_\_  
 5. Thy mer - cy grea - ter is, thy mer - cy grea - ter is than\_\_\_

Soprano  
*The first singing part*

1. If that a sin - ner's  
 2. If I had Da - vid's  
 5. Thy mer - cy grea - ter

Alto

1. If that a sin - ner's sighs, if that a sin - ner's\_\_\_  
 2. If I had Da - vid's crown, if I had Da - vid's\_\_\_  
 5. Thy mer - cy grea - ter is, thy mer - cy grea - ter\_\_\_

Tenor

1. If that a sin - ner's sighs, if that a sin - ner's  
 2. If I had Da - vid's crown, if I had Da - vid's  
 5. Thy mer - cy grea - ter is, thy mer - cy grea - ter

Bass

1. If that a sin - ner's sighs, if that a sin - ner's  
 2. If I had Da - vid's crown, if I had Da - vid's  
 5. Thy mer - cy grea - ter is, thy mer - cy grea - ter

S.

\_\_\_\_\_ An - gels' food, Or that re - pent - ant\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_ me be - side, Or all his pur - ple\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_ a - ny sin, Thy great - ness none can\_\_\_

S.

sighs be An - gels' food, Or that re - pent - ant  
 crown to me be - side, Or all his pur - ple  
 is than a - ny sin, Thy great - ness none can

A.

sighs be An - gels' food, Or that re - pent - ant tears be  
 crown to me be - side, Or all his pur - ple robes that  
 is than a - ny sin, Thy great - ness none can e - ver

T.

sighs be An - gels' food, Or that re - pent - ant tears be An -  
 crown to me be - side, Or all his pur - ple robes that he  
 is than a - ny sin, Thy great - ness none can e - ver com -

B.

sighs be An - gels' food, Or that re - pent - ant  
 crown to me be - side, Or all his pur - ple  
 is than a - ny sin, Thy great - ness none can

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S. tears be An - gels' wine, An - gels' wine, Ac -  
 robes that he did wear, he did wear, I  
 e - ver com - pre - hend, com - pre - hend: Where -

S. tears be An - gels' wine, Ac - cept, O Lord,  
 robes that he did wear, I would lay then,  
 e - ver com - pre - hend: Where - fore, O Lord,

A. An - gels' wine, Ac - cept, O Lord, O  
 he did wear, I would lay then, lay  
 com - pre - hend: Where - fore, O Lord, O

T. - gels' wine, An - gels' wine, be An - gels' wine, Ac - cept, O Lord, ac -  
 did wear, he did wear, that he did wear, I would lay then, I  
 -pre - hend, com - pre - hend, com - pre - hend: Where - fore, O Lord, Where

B. tears be An - gels' wine, Ac - cept, O Lord, O  
 robes that he did wear, I would lay then, lay  
 e - ver com - pre - hend: Where - fore, O Lord, O

S. -cept, O Lord, in this most pen - sive mood These  
 would lay then such hon - our all a - side, And  
 -fore, O Lord, let me thy mer - cy win, Whose

S. ac - cept, O Lord, in this most pen - sive mood  
 I would lay then such hon - our all a - side,  
 where - fore, O Lord, let me thy mer - cy win,

A. Lord, ac - cept, O Lord, in this most pen - sive mood, most pen - sive  
 then, I would lay then such hon - our all a - side, all a -  
 Lord, where - fore, O Lord, let me thy mer - cy win, thy mer - cy

T. -cept, O Lord, in this most pen - sive mood, most pen - sive mood  
 would lay then such hon - our all a - side, all a - side,  
 -fore, O Lord, let me thy mer - cy win, thy mer - cy win,

B. Lord, in this most pen - sive mood These  
 then such hon - our all a - side, And  
 Lord, let me thy mer - cy win, Whose

20

S. heart - y sighs and tears of mine, these heart - y sighs and  
 on - ly seek a sack cloth weed, and on - ly seek a  
 glo - ri - ous name no time can end, whose glo - ri - ous name no

S. These heart - y sighs, these heart - y sighs and faith -  
 And on - ly seek, and on - ly seek a sack -  
 Whose glo - ri - ous name, whose glo - ri - ous name no time

A. mood These heart - y sighs and tears of mine,  
 side, And on - ly seek a weed to bear,  
 win, Whose glo - ri - ous name no time can end,

T. These heart - y sighs, these heart - y sighs and faith -  
 And on - ly seek, and on - ly seek a sack -  
 Whose glo - ri - ous name, whose glo - ri - ous name no time

B. heart - y sighs and faith - ful tears of mine, of mine,  
 on - ly seek a sack - cloth weed to bear, to bear,  
 glo - ri - ous name no time can e - ver, e - ver end,

S. tears of mine: That went with Pe - ter forth most  
 weed to bear: His Pa - lace would I leave that  
 time can e - ver end: Where - fore I say all praise be -

S. - ful tears of mine:  
 - cloth weed to bear:  
 can e - ver end:

A. and tears of mine: That went with Pe - ter  
 a weed to bear: His Pa - lace would I  
 no time can end: Where - fore I say all

T. - ful tears of mine: That went with Pe - ter forth  
 - cloth weed to bear: His Pa - lace would I leave  
 can e - ver end: Where - fore I say all praise

B. and faith - ful tears of mine: That went with Pe - ter forth  
 a sack - cloth weed to bear: His Pa - lace would I leave  
 no time can e - ver end: Where - fore I say all praise

S.    
 sin - ful - ly, most sin - ful - ly But   
 I might show, that I might show, And   
 longs to thee, be - longs to thee, Whom

S.    
 That went with Pe - ter forth most sin - ful - ly   
 His Pa - lace would I leave that I might show,   
 Where - fore I say all praise be - longs to thee,

A.    
 forth leave most sin - ful - ly But not with   
 praise that be - longs to thee, And mourn in

T.    
 most sin - ful - ly, most sin - ful - ly, sin - ful - ly But   
 that I might show, that I might show, I might show, And   
 be - longs to thee, be - longs to thee, to thee, thee, Whom

B.    
 most sin - ful - ly, most sin - ful - ly   
 that I might show, that I might show,   
 be - longs to thee, be - longs to thee,

S.  <sup>30</sup>   
 not with Pe - ter wept most bit - ter - ly.   
 mourn in cell for such of - fence, and woe.   
 I be - seech be mer - ci - ful to me.

S.    
 But not with Pe - ter wept most bit - ter - ly.   
 And mourn in cell for such of - fence, and woe.   
 Whom I be - seech be mer - ci - ful to me.

A.    
 Pe - ter wept, wept most bit - ter - ly.   
 cell for such, such of - fence, and woe.   
 -seech be mer - ci - ful to me.

T.    
 not with Pe - ter wept most bit - ter - ly. That   
 mourn in cell for such of - fence, and woe.   
 I be - seech be mer - ci - ful to thee.

B.    
 But not with Pe - ter wept most bit - ter - ly.   
 And mourn in cell for such of - fence, and woe.   
 Whom I be - seech be mer - ci - ful to me.

2.

S. bit - ter - ly, with Pe - ter wept most bit - ter - ly.  
 fence, and woe, in cell for such of - fence, and woe.  
 ful to me, I be - seech be mer - ci - ful to me.

S. -ter wept, with Pe - ter wept most bit - ter - ly.  
 for such, in cell for such of - fence, and woe.  
 be - seech, I be - seech be mer - ci - ful to me.

A. with Pe - ter wept most bit - ter - ly.  
 in cell for such of - fence, and woe.  
 -ci - ful to me, to me.

T. Pe - ter wept most bit - ter - ly, most bit - ter - ly.  
 cell for such of - fence and woe, of - fence, and woe.  
 -seech be mer - ci - ful to me, mer - ci - ful to me.

B. -ter wept most bit - ter - ly, wept most bit - ter - ly.  
 for such of - fence and woe, such of - fence, and woe.  
 be mer - ci - ful to me, mer - ci - ful to me.

If that a sinner's sighs be Angels' food,  
 Or that repentant tears be Angels' wine,  
 Accept O Lord in this most pensive mood  
 These hearty sighs and tears of mine  
 That went with Peter forth most sinfully  
 But not with Peter wept most bitterly.

If I had David's crown to me beside,  
 Or all the purple robes that he did wear,  
 I would lay then such honour all aside,  
 And only seek a sackcloth weed to bear:  
 His Palace would I leave that I might show,  
 And mourn in cell for such offence, and woe.

There should these hands beat on my pensive breast,  
 And sad to death, for sorrow rend my hair,  
 My voice to call on thee should never rest,  
 Whose grace I seek, whose judgement I do fear:  
 Upon the ground all grovelling on my face,  
 I would beseech thy favour and good grace.

But since I have not mean to make the show  
 Of my repentant mind, and yet I see  
 My sin to greater heap than Peter's grow,  
 Whereby the danger more it is to me,  
 I put my trust in his most precious blood,  
 Whose life was shed to purchase all our good.

Thy mercy greater is than any sin,  
 Thy greatness none can ever comprehend:  
 Wherefore, O Lord, let me thy mercy win,  
 Whose glorious name no time can ever end:  
 Wherefore I say all praise belongs to thee,  
 Whom I beseech be merciful to me.