

# Constant Penelope

William Byrd (c.1540-1623)

Superius  
[Alto]  
*The first singing part*

Medius  
[Tenor]

Contratenor  
[Tenor]

Tenor  
[Bass]

Bassus  
[Bass]

Con - stant Pe - ne - lo -  
Con - stant Pe - ne - lo - - - pe, sends to thee  
Con - stant Pe -  
Con - stant Pe - ne - lo - pe, Pe - ne - lo - pe, sends to  
Con - stant Pe - ne - - - lo - pe, sends

-pe, sends to thee care - less U - lys - ses, write not a -  
care - less U - lys - ses, care - less U - lys - ses, write not a -  
-ne - lo - pe sends to thee, care - less U - lys - ses, write not a - gain, but  
- thee care - less U - lys - ses, write not a - gain,  
to thee care - less U - - - lys - ses, write not a - gain, but

-gain, but come sweet mate thy - self to re - vive me.  
-gain, but come sweet mate thy - self to re - vive me. Troy we do  
come sweet mate thy - self to re - vive me. Troy  
- but come sweet mate thy - self to re - vive me. Troy we do  
come sweet mate thy - self to re - - - vive me. Troy we do

10

Troy we do much en - vy, we de - so - late lost La - dies of Greece:  
 much en - vy, en - - vy, we de - so - late lost La - dies of  
 we do much en - - vy, we de - so - late lost La - dies of  
 much en - vy, *Troy* we do much en - vy, we de - so - late lost La - dies of  
 much en - vy, we de - so - late lost La - - dies of Greece:

Not Pri - a - mus, nor yet all Troy can us re - com - pense make.  
 Greece: Not Pri - a - mus, nor yet all Troy can us re - com - pense  
 Greece: Not Pri - a - mus, can us re - com - pense  
 Greece: Not Pri - a - mus, nor yet all Troy, can us re - com - pense  
 Not Pri - a - mus, nor yet all Troy, can us re - com - pense

20

Oh, oh, oh, that he had when he first  
 make. Oh, oh, oh, that he had when he first took ship - ping to  
 make. Oh, oh, oh, that he had when he  
 make. Oh, oh, oh, that he had when he first took ship - ping.  
 make. Oh, oh, oh, that he had when he first

took ship - ping to La - ce - dæ - mon, that a - dul - ter I mean, had  
 La - ce - dæ - mon, that a - dul - ter I mean, had been ov - er -  
 first took ship - ping to La - ce - dæ - mon, that a - dul - ter I mean, had  
 to La - ce - dæ - mon, to La - ce - dæ - mon, that a - dul - ter I mean, had  
 took ship - ping to La - ce - dæ - mon, that a - dul - ter I mean, had been

been o'er - whelm - ed with wa - ters: Then had I  
 -whelm-ed with wa - ters: Then had I not lien  
 been o'er - whelm - ed with wa - ters: Then had I not lien now  
 been o'er-whelm - ed with wa - ters: Then had I not lien now all  
 o'er - whelm - ed with wa - ters: Then had I not lien now all a - lone, thus

30  
 not lien now all a - lone, thus qui - ver - ing for cold,  
 now all a - lone, thus qui - ver - ing for cold, nor us - ed this com -  
 all a - lone, thus qui - ver - ing for cold, for cold, nor  
 a - lone, thus qui - ver - ing for cold, nor us - ed  
 qui - ver - ing for cold, for cold, nor us - ed this

nor us - ed this com - plaint, nor have thought the day to be  
 -plaint, nor have thought the day to be so  
 us - ed this com - plaint, nor have thought the day to be so long, to  
 this com - plaint, com - plaint, nor have thought the day to be  
 com - plaint, nor have thought the day to be so long, so

so long. Then had I not lien now all a -  
 long so long. Then had I not lien now all a-lone thus  
 be so long. Then had I not lien now all a - lone,  
 — so — long. Then had I not lien now all a - lone,  
 — long. Then had I not lien now all a-lone, thus qui - ver - ing for

40  
 -lone, thus qui - ver - ing for cold, nor us - ed  
 qui - ver - ing for cold, nor us - ed this com - plaint, nor have  
 thus qui - ver - ing for cold, for cold, nor us - ed this com -  
 thus qui - ver - ing for cold, nor us - ed this com - plaint, com -  
 cold, for cold, nor us - ed this com - plaint, nor have

this com - plaint, nor have thought the day to be so long.  
 thought the day to be so long so long.  
 -plaint, nor have thought the day to be so long, to be so long.  
 -plaint, nor have thought the day to be so long.  
 thought the day to be so long, so long.

Source: William Byrd, *Psalmes, Sonets, & songs of sadnes and pietie* (London, 1588), no.23.

Constant *Penelope*, sends to thee carelesse *Uliesses*,  
 write not againe, but come sweet mate thy selfe to revive mee.  
*Troy* wee doe much envie, wee desolate lost Ladies of *Greece*:  
 Not *Priamus*, nor yet all *Troy* can us recompence make.  
 Oh, that hee had when hee first tooke shipping to Lacedemon,  
 that adulter I meane, had beene o'whelmed with waters:  
 Then had I not lien now all alone, thus quivering for cold,  
 nor used this complaint, nor have thought the day to bee so long.

*Ovid*, *Heroides* I, tr. ?*Thomas Watson* (c.1557-1592)

Haec tua Penelope lento tibi mittit, Ulixee  
 nil mihi rescribas attinet: ipse veni!  
 Troia iacet certe, Danais invisa puellis;  
 vix Priamus tanti totaque Troia fuit.  
 o utinam tum, cum Lacedaemona classe petebat,  
 obrutus insanis esset adulter aquis!  
 non ego deserto iacuissem frigida lecto,  
 nec quererer tardos ire relicta dies.

Part of my complete edition of the published vocal works of William Byrd made available through the Choral Public Domain Library (<http://www.cpd.org>).  
 For general editorial notes, please visit my user page at <http://www.cpd.org/wiki/index.php/User:DaveF>.  
 All scores are made freely available according to the CPDL Licence for downloading, printing, performing and recording. No further conditions are  
 or can be attached, although it's always good to hear of any performances.  
 Please do not, without consulting me, make copies of my scores available through other websites – there's no need, first of all, as CPDL is always here,  
 and secondly by doing so you put these editions beyond my control and so will miss out on any updates and revisions.