

# As thy shadow itself apply'th

?The Composer

THOMAS WHYTHORNE  
(1528–95)

[♩ = c. 120]

S  
As thy sha - dow it - self ap - ply'th To \_\_\_

A  
As thy sha - dow it - self \_\_\_ ap - ply'th To

T  
As thy sha - dow it - self ap - - - ply'th To

Bar  
As thy sha - dow it - self \_\_\_ ap - ply'th To \_\_\_ fol -

B  
As thy sha - dow it - self ap - ply'th To

Keyboard reduction

This is the consort song (the lower 4 parts could be rendered by instruments) on which E. J. Moeran based his 'variations' for small orchestra, evocatively titled *Whythorne's Shadow* and published in 1931 as one of *Two Pieces for small orchestra*, the other being *Lonely Waters*, based on a folksong he had collected.

Whythorne's original was published in 1571. It has something of the character of a gentle English country dance. The quaint F naturals on pp. 1 & 2 and the baritone's C natural in bar 3 could be sharpened without doing any particular violence to the music. The original print is quite neat but cannot wholly be relied upon for text underlay, which is, nevertheless, not untypical of its time and quite singable. This edition is based upon Peter Warlocks's transcription (OUP, 1927).

The text is anonymous, but since the composer was capable of writing a good autobiography, it is not unlikely that the poem is by him. It does, however, have its grammatical and verbal obscurities and is somewhat convoluted, although the overall sense is clear enough. Unusual words (to this editor, at least) are 'wry'th' which means 'twists', 'shopes' (=shapes?) and 'gloze' meaning to 'gloss over' or, 'remain unnoticed'.

3

fol - low\_ thee where - so thou go, And when thou\_ bends, it -  
fol - low thee where - so thou go, And when thou bends, it - self\_  
fol - low\_ thee where - so thou go, And when thou\_ bends, it -  
- - low\_ thee\_ where - so thou go, And when thou\_ bends, it - self\_  
fol - low thee where - so thou go, And when thou bends, it -

3

6

self it\_ wry'th, Tur - ning, as\_ thou, both to and fro; The  
\_ it\_ wry'th, Tur - ning, as thou, both\_ to and fro; The  
self it\_ wry'th, Tur - ning, as\_ thou, both\_ to and fro; The  
\_ \_ \_ it wry'th, Tur - ning, \_ as\_ \_ \_ \_ thou, both to and fro; The  
self it wry'th, Tur - ning, as thou, both to and fro; The

6

9

flat - ter - er doth e - ven so, And shopes him - self the

flat - ter - er doth - e - ven - so, And - shopes him - self the -

flat - ter - er doth - e - ven so, - And shopes him - self the -

flat - ter - er doth e - ven so, - And shopes him - self the

flat - ter - er doth e - ven so, And shopes him - self the

9

12

same to gloze, With man - ya fawn - ing and gay show, Whom

same to gloze, With man - ya fawn - ing and gay show, Whom

same to gloze, - With man - ya fawn - ing and - gay show, Whom

same to gloze, - With man - ya - fawn - ing - and - gay show, - Whom -

same to gloze, With man - ya fawn - ing and - gay show, Whom.

12

15

he would frame for his pur - pose, With man - y a fawn - ing  
he would frame for his pur - pose, With man - y a fawn - ing  
he would frame for his pur - pose, With man - y a fawn - ing and\_  
he would frame for his pur - pose, With man - y a fawn - ing and\_  
he would frame for his pur - pose, With man - y a fawn - ing

15

18

and gay show, Whom he would frame for his pur - pose.  
and gay show, Whom he would frame for his pur - pose.  
— gay show, Whom he would frame for his pur - pose.  
— gay show, Whom he would frame for his pur - pose.  
and gay show, Whom he would frame for his pur - pose.

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