

To complayne me, alas

A Song

To complayne me, alas, why shulde I so?
For my complaynts it did me nevir good;
But be constraynt, now must I shew my woo
To her only which is myn yës fode,
Trustyng sum thyme that she will chaunge her mode
And lett me not allway be guerdonless,
Suth for my trouth she needith no wittness.

(*'yës', eyes; 'guerdonless', without reward; 'syth', since; 'mode', mood.*)

Edited by Humphrey Thompson.

Robert Fayrfax (1464-1521)

Sources: GB-Lbl Add. MS 5465 (Fayrfax MS).

Ligature and coloration brackets have been omitted to aid readability.

Musical score for the first system, featuring three vocal parts: Altus, Contratenor, and Bassus. The music is in 4/2 time and G minor. Each part begins with a C-clef and the instruction "To complayne". The lyrics are: "To com-plain me, a-las, why should I so?"

Musical score for the second system, featuring three vocal parts: Altus (A.), Contratenor (Ct.), and Bassus (B.). The music continues from the first system. The lyrics are: "For my com-plaints it did me ne-ver good;"

10

A. But be con-strained, now must I show my

Ct. But be con-strained, now

B. But be con-strained, now must I

14

A. woe To her on-ly which is my

Ct. must I show my woe To her on - ly which is my eyes'

B. show my woe To her on - ly which is my

18

A. eyes' food,

Ct. food,

B. eyes' food,

22

A.

Ct.

B.

26

A. Trust - yng sum thyme that she will chaunge her

Ct. Trust - yng sum thyme that she will chaunge her mood and

B. Trust - yng sum thyme that she will chaunge her

30

A. mood and lett me not all - way be guerd - on - less,

Ct. lett me not all - way be guerd - on - less,

B. mood and lett me not all - way be guerd - on - less,

34

A.

Ct.

B.

38

A. Since for my trouth she need - ith no wit - ness.

Ct. Since for my trouth she need - ith no wit - ness.

B. Since for my trouth she need - ith no wit - ness.

42

A. 

Ct. 

B. 

46

A. 

Ct. 

B. 