

Come again! sweet Love doth now invite

The First Booke of Songs or Ayres (1597), no. 17.

The poem expresses the despair of a rejected lover, who can get only disdain from 'her eyes of fire, her heart of flint', and begs Cupid to release him from his fruitless love. 'Come again' does not mean so much 'Come once more' but rather, sadly, 'Come back'. So the music, which at first

sight seems cheerful, is in fact contrasting the longed-for joys of love with the hopelessness of not possessing them. 'Love' in the first and last stanzas means Cupid, the god of love. In stanzas 3–6, the last line is two syllables short, and in performance this problem can be solved by repeating 'her frowns', 'the storms', 'whom tears', and 'while she'.

ORIGINAL LUTE TABLATURE

GUITAR TRANSCRIPTION

N.B. If a guitar is used rather than a lute, the voice must sing a minor third lower; or alternatively, a capotasto may be placed on the third fret of the guitar.

vite Thy gra - ces, that re - frain To

do me due de - light, To see, to hear, to touch,