

O That Most Rare Breast

Sir Edward Dyer [?]

William Byrd (c.1540-1623)

Dow Partbooks (Christ Church, 1580s, Oxford MSS 984-988)

5

Superius

Medius

Contra

Tenor

Bassus

Detailed description: This system shows the first five staves of the musical score. The Superius part begins with a treble clef, a key signature of one flat (B-flat), and a 4/2 time signature. The lyrics 'O O' are written below the Superius staff. The other parts (Medius, Contra, Tenor, Bassus) are shown with their respective clefs and staves, but no lyrics are present for them in this system.

10

that O that most rare breast crys - tal - ine sin - cere

Detailed description: This system continues the musical score from measure 10. The Superius staff contains the lyrics 'that O that most rare breast crys - tal - ine sin - cere'. The other parts continue with their respective musical notation.

15

through which like gold thy prince - ly heart did shine;

Detailed description: This system continues the musical score from measure 15. The Superius staff contains the lyrics 'through which like gold thy prince - ly heart did shine;'. The other parts continue with their respective musical notation.

20

O sprite he - ro - ic, O va-li - ant wor - thy knight. O Sid - ney!

25

O Sid - ney! Prince of fame and mens good_

30

35

will. O Sid - ney! O Sid - ney! Prince of fame

40

and mens good will.

45

For For thee for thee both kings and prin - ces

50

now do mourn thy no - ble tomb three ci - ties strange de -

75

And wail the day that cross'd thy fa - - mous race.

8

8

Detailed description: This is a musical score for a vocal piece. It consists of five staves. The top staff is the vocal line, with lyrics underneath. The lyrics are: "And wail the day that cross'd thy fa - - mous race." The number "75" is written above the vocal staff. The second staff is a treble clef accompaniment. The third staff is a treble clef accompaniment with a "8" below it. The fourth staff is a treble clef accompaniment with an "8" below it. The fifth staff is a bass clef accompaniment. The music is in a key with two flats (B-flat and E-flat) and a common time signature. The vocal line has a fermata over the final note "race".