

O That Most Rare Breast

Sir Edward Dyer [?]

William Byrd (c.1540-1623)

Dow Partbooks (Christ Church, 1570s, Oxford MSS 984-988)

5

Superius

Medius

Contra

Tenor

Bassus

10

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

15

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

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 -

55

60

sir'd
 foes to the cause thy prowess did defend

65

be-wail the day;
 And wail the day that cross'd

70

thy famous race
 And wail the day

75

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

The musical score consists of six staves. The top staff is the vocal line, with lyrics underneath. The remaining five staves are for piano accompaniment, including a grand staff (treble and bass clefs) and two additional treble clef staves. The score is in a key with two flats (B-flat and E-flat) and a common time signature. The lyrics are: "And wail the day that cross'd thy fa - - mous race." The number 75 is positioned above the fifth measure of the vocal line. The piece concludes with a double bar line and repeat signs on the right side of the staves.