

My Mind to Me a Kingdom Is

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

William Byrd (c.1540-1623)

Superius

Medius

Contratenor

Tenor

Bassus

My mynde to me a king- dom is

5

such per- fect joy ther- in I finde, that it ex- cells all

10

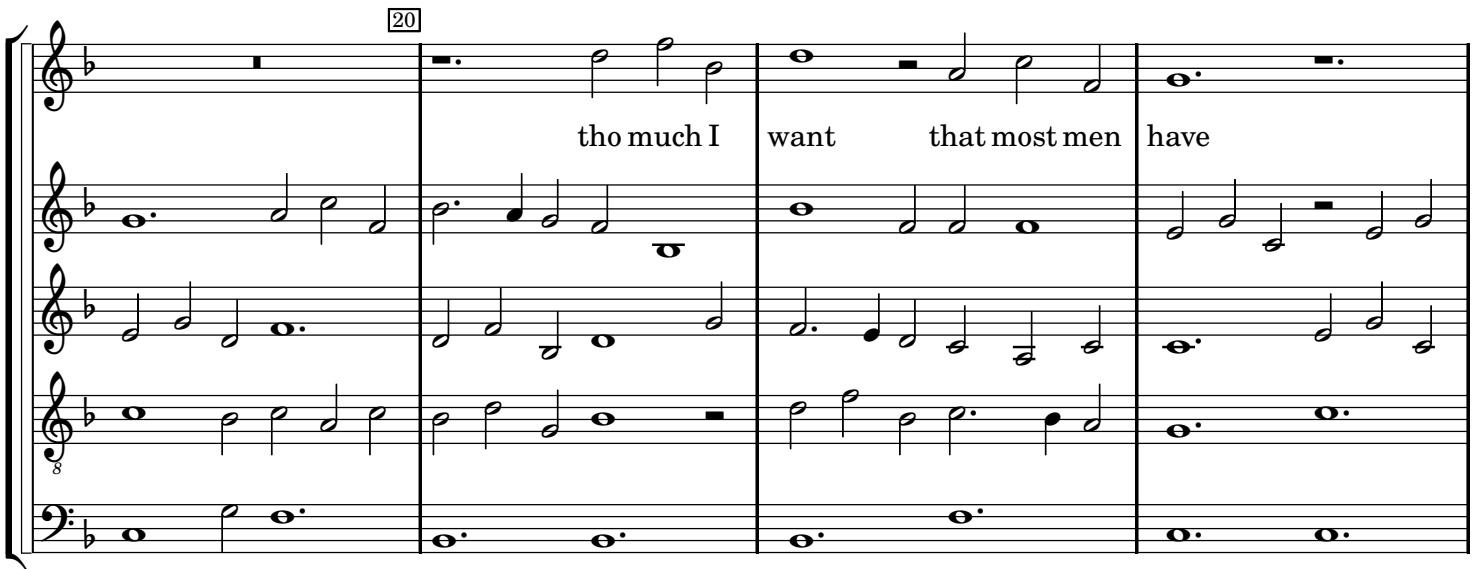
o- ther bliss that god or na- ture hath as- sinde: tho much I

15




want that most men have yet stil my mynde for-bids to crave

20



tho much I want that most men have

25



yet stil my mynd for-bids to crave yet stil my mynd for-bids to crave.

Additional Lyrics from *Psalmes, Sonets, & songs of sadnes and pietie* (1588)

1. My minde to me a kingdome is,
such perfect joy therin I find,
That it excells all other blisse,
which God or Nature hath assign'd
Though much I want, that most would have,
yet still my mind forbids to crave.

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2. No princely port nor welthie store,
no force to winne a victorie,
no wylly wit to salve a sore,
no shape to winne a loving eye:
to none of these I yeld as thrall,
for why my minde despise them all.

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3. I see that plentie surfeits oft,
and hastie clymbers soonest fall:
I see hat such as are a loft,
mishap doth threaten most of all:
these get with toyle and keepe with feare,
such cares my minde can never beare.

4. I presse to beare no haughtie sway,
I wish no more then may suffice:
I doe no more than well I may,
look what I want my minde supplies,
loe thus I triumph like a King,
my minde content with any thing.

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5. I laugh not at anothers losse,
nor grudge not at anothers gaine:
no worldly waves my minde can tosse,
I brooke that is anothers bane:
I feare no foe nor nor fawne on friend,
I loth not lyfe nor dread mine end.

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6. My wealth is health and perfecte ease,
and conscience cleere my chiefe defence,
I never seeke by brybes to please,
nor by desert to give offence:
thus doe I live, thus will I dye,
would all did so as well as I.