



Six Part Songs  
No. 5

# Prithee, why?

Charles Hubert Hastings Parry  
(1848-1918)

Why so pale and wan, fond lover?  
Prithee, why so pale?  
Will, when looking well can't move her,  
Looking ill prevail?  
Prithee, why so pale?

Why so dull and mute, young sinner?  
Prithee, why so mute?  
Will, when speaking well can't win her,  
Saying nothing do't?  
Prithee, why so mute?

Quit, quit for shame! This will not move;  
This cannot take her.  
If of herself she will not love,  
Nothing can make her:  
The devil take her!

Sir John Suckling (1609–1642)

# Prithee, why?

C. Hubert H. Parry

**Lively** ♩ = about 120

Soprano (S): Why so pale and wan, fond lov - er? Prith-ee, why, \_\_\_\_\_ why so

Alto (A): Why so pale and wan, fond lov - er? Prith-ee, why, why so

Tenor (T): Why so pale and wan, fond lov - er? Prith-ee, why so

Bass (B): Why so pale and wan, fond lov - er? Prith-ee, why so

A musical score for four voices (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) in 2/4 time. The key signature changes from B-flat major (two flats) to A major (no sharps or flats). The vocal parts are as follows:

- Soprano (S):** pale? Will, when look - ing well can't move her,
- Alto (A):** pale? Will, when look - ing well can't move her,
- Tenor (T):** pale? Will, when look - ing well can't move her,
- Bass (B):** pale? Will, when look - ing well can't move her, Look-ing

The vocal parts are accompanied by a piano part, indicated by a treble clef and bass clef in the piano staff.

## Prithee, why?

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Soprano (S): Look-ing ill pre - vail?  
Alto (A): Look-ing ill pre - vail?  
Tenor (T): Look-ing ill pre - vail?  
Bass (B): ill pre - vail? Prith-ee, why, prith-ee,

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Soprano (S): why, prith - ee, why, prith-ee, why so pale?  
Alto (A): — prith - ee, why, prith - ee, why, why so pale?  
Tenor (T): prith - ee, why, prith-ee, why so pale?  
Bass (B): why, prith - ee, why so pale?

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Soprano (S): Why so dull and mute, young sin - ner? Prith-ee, why, why so  
Alto (A): Why so dull and mute, young sin - ner? Prith-ee, why, why so  
Tenor (T): Why so dull and mute, young sin - ner? Prith-ee, why so  
Bass (B): Why so dull and mute, young sin - ner? Prith-ee, why so

# Prithee, why?

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Soprano (S): mute?  
Alto (A): Will, when speaking well can't win her,  
Tenor (T): mute?  
Bass (B): Will, when speaking well can't win her, Say - ing

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Soprano (S): Say - ing noth - ing do't? Prith-ee, why, Prith-ee,  
Alto (A): Say - ing noth - ing do't? Prith-ee, why,  
Tenor (T): Say - ing noth - ing do't? Prith-ee, why,  
Bass (B): Say - ing noth - ing do't? Prith-ee, why, prith-ee,

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Soprano (S): why, prith - ee, why, so mute?  
Alto (A): — prith - ee, why, prith - ee, why, so mute?  
Tenor (T): cresc. prith - ee, why, prith - ee, why, so mute?  
Bass (B): why, prith - ee, why, so mute?

## Prithee, why?

*Animato*

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S: *f* *cresc.* *cresc.*

A: *f* *cresc.* *cresc.*

T: *f* *cresc.* *#f* *#f*

B: *f* *cresc.* *#f* *#f*

Quit, quit for shame! This will not move; This can - not take her.

Quit, quit for shame! This will not move; This can - not take her.

Quit, quit for shame! This will not move; This can - not take her.

Quit, quit for shame! This will not move; This can - not take her.

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S: *f* *#f* *#f* *#f* *#f* *#f* *#f*

A: *f* *f* *f* *f* *f* *f* *f*

T: *f* *f* *f* *f* *f* *f* *f*

B: *f* *f* *f* *f* *f* *f* *f*

If of her - self she will not love, if of her - self she will not,

If of her - self she will not love, if of her - self she

If of her - self she will not love, if of her - self she

If of her - self she will not love, if of her -

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S: *f* *f* *f* *f* *f* *f* *f*

A: *f* *f* *f* *f* *f* *f* *f*

T: *f* *f* *f* *f* *f* *f* *f*

B: *f* *f* *f* *f* *f* *f* *f*

will not, will not love, Noth - ing, noth - ing,

will not, will not love, Noth - ing, noth - ing,

will not, will not love, Noth - ing, noth - ing,

self she will not love, Noth - ing, noth - ing,

Prithee, why?

Soprano (S) vocal line:

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Soprano (S) vocal line:  
nothing can make her: The devil take her!  
nothing can make her: The devil take her!  
nothing can make her: The devil take her!

Alto (A) vocal line:  
nothing can make her: The devil take her!

Tenor (T) vocal line:  
nothing can make her: The devil take her!

Bass (B) vocal line:  
nothing can make her: The devil take her!

Novello and Company  
(1909)

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