



Old English Lyrics
3.

Fair, *sweet*, cruel

John Gerrard Williams
(1888–1947)

John Gerrard Williams (1888-1947) was born in London and began a career as an architect. He devoted his spare time to music, joining choral societies and orchestras. He had had no other training when he began to compose in 1911, becoming a fruitful composer and arranger. Most of his smaller and intimate forms with much of his best work as lyrical songs. Williams composed an orchestral ballet, a *rhapsody*, a suite and assorted smaller pieces. His string quartets reflect French influence, especially that of Debussy and his piano music has been compared to Ravel's. His choral music was mainly brief in format, writing songs for mixed voices (e.g. *Diaphenia*, *Sweet Kate*, *Fair*, *Sweet*, *Cruel*, *Charming Chloe*, *Three Sleeps*, *When Laura Smiles*, *Whither Runneth My Sweet Heart?* and the wordless *Tragic Fragment*), women's voices (*The Hawthorne Tree*), four-part men's voices (e.g. *Old Farmer Buck*, *Thou Sent'st to Me a Heart* and *Scizzars are Pumpy*) and two part children's voices (e.g. *Welcome Sweet Pleasure*, *I Loved a Lass* and *Foreign Craft*). Williams also wrote hundreds of arrangements of folk-songs, folk dance tunes, popular melodies, J.S. Bach and more.

Fair, sweet, cruel, why dost thou fly me?
Go not, oh go not from thy dearest!
When thou dost hasten, I am nigh thee;
When thou seem'st far, then I am nearest.
Tarry then, and take me with you.

Fie! Fie! Sweetest, here is no danger;
Fly not, oh fly not, love pursues thee.
I am no foe nor foreign stranger;
Thy scorn with fresher hope renews me.
Tarry then, and take me with you.

Musicke of Sundrie Kindes (1607)
Thomas Ford (1580–1648)

Fair, sweet, cruel

J. G. Williams

Andantino ♩ = 92-104

S Fair, sweet, cru - el, why dost thou

A Fair, sweet, cru - el, why dost thou

T Fair, sweet, cru - el, why dost thou fly me,

B Fair, sweet, cru - el, why dost thou

p dolce *rf* *p* *espress.*

4

S fly me? Go not, oh go not from thy dear - est!

A fly me? Go not, oh go not from thy dear - est!

T why dost thou fly me? Go not, oh go not from thy dear - est!

B fly me? Go not, oh go not from thy dear - est!

dolciss.



Fair, sweet, cruel

7 *con moto*

S When thou dost has - ten, I am nigh thee;

A *legato* When thou dost has - ten, I am nigh thee;

T *con moto* 8 When thou dost has - ten, I am nigh thee;

B *con moto* When thou dost has - ten, I am nigh thee;

10

S When thou seem'st far, then I am near - est. Tar -

A When thou seem'st far, then I am near - est. Tar - ry

T 8 When thou seem'st far, then I am near - est.

B When thou seem'st far, then I am near - est.

13

S - - - - ry then, oh tar - ry then, tar - - - - ry

A then, tar - ry, tar - ry then, tar - ry then,

T 8 Tar - ry then, tar - ry, tar - ry then, tar - ry then,

B Tar - ry then, oh tar - ry then, tar - ry

Fair, sweet, cruel

16 *rit.*

S then, oh tar - ry then, tar - ry then, and take me with you.

A tar - ry, tar - ry then, tar - ry then, and take me with you.

T tar - ry, tar - ry then, tar - ry then, and take me with you.

B then, oh tar - ry then, and take me with you.

18 *a tempo più f* *p dolce* *espress.*

S Fie! Fie! Sweet - est, here is no

A Fie! Fie! Sweet - est, here is no

T Fie! Fie! Sweet - est, here is no dan - ger,

B Fie! Fie! Sweet - est, here is no

21 *dolciss.*

S dan - ger; Fly not, oh fly not, love pur - sues thee.

A dan - ger; Fly not, oh fly not, love pur - sues thee.

T here is no dan - ger; Fly not, oh fly not, love pur - sues thee.

B dan - ger; Fly not, oh fly not, love pur - sues thee.

Fair, sweet, cruel

24 *con moto* *poco cresc.*

S I am no foe nor for - eign stran - ger;

A *legato* *con moto* *poco cresc.*
I am no foe nor for - - - eign stran - ger;

T *con moto* *poco cresc.*
I am no foe nor for - eign stran - ger;

B *con moto* *poco cresc.*
I am no foe nor for - eign stran - ger;

27 *p*

S Thy scorn with fresh - er hope re - news me. Tar -

A Thy scorn with fresh - er hope re - news me. Tar - ry

T Thy scorn with fresh - er hope re - news me.

B Thy scorn with fresh - er hope re - news me.

30 *p*

S - - - ry then, oh tar - ry then, tar - - - ry

A then, tar - ry, tar - ry then, tar - ry then,

T *p* Tar - ry then, tar - ry, tar - ry then, tar - ry then,

B *p* Tar - ry then, oh tar - ry then, tar - ry

Fair, sweet, cruel

33

S then, oh tar - ry then, tar - ry then, and take me with you.

A tar - ry, tar - ry then, tar - ry then, and take me with you.

T tar - ry, tar - ry then, tar - ry then, and take me with you.

B then, oh tar - ry then, and _____ take me with you.

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