

WEEP, O MINE EYES

JOHN BENNETT

Weep, O mine eyes, and cease not,
 Alas, these your springtides, methinks, increase not.
 O when, O when begin you
 To swell so high that I may drown me in you?

Madrigals à 4 (1599), xiii

Faced with such a poem, Bennett could hardly avoid referring to the melody of Dowland's *Lachrymae*, yet the disarmingly passionate plea brings forth a setting whose sensitivity is characteristic of Bennett alone. As his admirer Ravenscroft said (preface to the *Brief Discourse*): 'the very life of that passion, which the ditty sounded, is so truly expressed, as if he had measured it alone by his own soul, and invented no other harmony than his own sensible feeling in that affection did afford him'.

S
A
T
B

Weep, O mine eyes, and cease

Weep, O mine eyes, weep, O mine eyes, and cease not, and not, weep, O mine eyes and cease not, weep, cease not, weep, O mine eyes, weep,

10

eyes, weep, O mine eyes, and cease

cease not weep, O mine eyes and cease

O mine eyes, weep, O mine eyes and cease

O mine eyes, weep and cease

15

not, A - las, these your spring

not, A - las, these your spring - tides a -

not, A - las, these your spring - tides,

not, and cease not, A - las,

20

tides a - las, these your

- las, these your spring - tides, me-thinks, in -

these your spring - tides, in -

25

spring - tides, me - thinks, in - crease not.

- crease not, me - thinks, in - crease not.

spring - tides, me - thinks, in - crease not.

- crease not, me - thinks in - crease not.

O when, O when
O when, O when
O when, O when
O when, O when

be - gin you To swell so
be - gin you To swell so
be - gin you To swell so
be - gin you To swell so

high that I may drown me in you, that
high that I may drown me in you, that
high that I may drown me in you, that
high that I may drown me in you, that

I may drown me in you?
I may drown me in you?
I may drown me in you?
I may drown me in you?