

Chapter Eleven - "30 Elizabethan Songs - With Documentation"

Balow - A Lullabye: c.1597

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Tune:

Simpson, Claude M. *The British Broadside Ballad and its Music*. Rutgers University Press, 1966. (Secondary Source)

Ballet's MS lute book p. 111 (late 16th c) [cited by Simpson]

Cambridge MS Dd. 6.78.3 fol 18, for lute. [cited by Simpson]

Morley's "*First Booke of Consort Lessons*" (1599) Full Title: *The first booke of consort lessons made by diuers exquisite authors, for six instruments to play together, the treble lute, the pandora, the cittern, the base-violl, the flute & treble-violl / newly set forth at the coast & charges of a gentle-man, for his priuate pleasure, and for diuers others his frendes which delight in musicke.*

Author: Morley, Thomas, 1557-1603? Printed at London in Little Saint Helens by VVilliam Barley, the assigne of Thomas Morely, and are to be solde at his shop in Gratiuous-streete, Date: 1599

Note: *The first booke of consort lessons, etc.* is in 6 separate books (volumes each containing one of six parts). Caution must be used in using this source. It's actually a set of part books, not a complete listing of the music. If you have only one or a few of the parts, you have a distorted idea of what the music is. I managed to obtain copies of the flute, base-violl, ciththern and bandora parts, none of which actually carry the melody! The lute and treble-violl parts are missing from my collection.

Words:

NYPL Pinkerton MS

A sweet lullabie, (Balow) may be found in *Arbor of Amorous Devices* of 1597, ed. by Rollins in 1936. [cited by Simpson] The original of that I found is:

Title: *The arbor of amorous deuises VVherin, young gentlemen may reade many plesant fancies, and fine deuises: and thereon, meditate diuers sweete conceites, to court the loue of faire ladies and gentlewomen by N.B. Gent.*

Author: Jones, Richard, fl. 1564-1602. Other Authors: Breton, Nicholas, 1545?-1626? Imprinted at London : By Richard Iohnes, dwelling at the signe of the Rose and Crowne, neere Saint Andrewes Church in Holborne, Date: 1597 Bib Name/Number: STC (2nd ed.) / 3631



THE ARBOR OF
amorous Deuifes.

Wherin, young Gentlemen

may reade many plectant fancies, and fine deuifes: And
thereon, meditate diuers sweete Conceits, to court
the loue of faire Ladies and Gentlewomen

By N. B. Gent.



Imprinted at London by Richard Iohanes; dwelling at the
signe of the Rose and Crowne, neere Saint Andrewes
Church in Holborne,

1592.

A sweet Lullabye.

Come little babe, come silly soule,
Thy fathers shame, thy mothers griefe,
Borne as I doubt to all our dole,
And to thy selfe vnhappy chiefe:
Sing Lullabye and lap it warme,
Poore soule that thinkes no creature harme,

Thou little thinkst and lesse doost knowe,
The cause of this thy mothers moane,
Thou wantst the wit to waile her woe,
And I my selfe am all alonet
Why doost thou weep? why doost thou waile?
And knowest not yet what thou doost ayle,

Comy

THE ARBOR

Come little wretch, ah filly heart,
Mine onely ioy what can I more?
If there be any wrong thy smart,
That may the destinies implore:
Ewas I, I say, against my will,
I wayle the time, but be thou still.

And doest thou smile, oh thy sweete face,
Would God himselfe he might thee see,
No doubt thou wouldst soone purchase grace.
I know right well for thee and mee:
But come to mother babe and play,
For fathers false is fled away.

Sweet boy if it by fortune chance,
Thy father home againe to send,
If death do strike me with his launce,
Yet mayst thou me to him comend:
If any aske thy mothers name,
Tell how by loue she purchast blame.

Then will his gentle heart soone yeeld,
I know him of a noble minde.
Although a Lyon in the field,
A Lamb in towne thou shalt him finde:
Aske blessing babe, be not afrayde,
His sugred words hath me betrayde.

When mayst thou ioy and be right glad,
Although in woe I seeme to moane.
Thy father is no Rascall lad,
A noble youth of blood and boane:
His glancing looks if he once smile,
Right honest women may beguile.

Come little boy and rocke a sleepe,
Sing lullabic and be thou still.

I that can doe nought else but weepe,
Wil sit by thee and waile my fill:
God blesse my babe and lullabic,
From this thy fathers qualitic.

Finis.

Palmer's Balow

[from NYPL Pinkerton MS]

Am F C
Balow my babe, ly still and sleepe!
Em G Am Em
It greves me sore to see thé weep!
Am F C
If thow wert quyet, I wold be glade;
Em G Am Em
Thy murneinge makes thy mother sade!
Dm G
Balow, my boy, thy mother's ioy;
Dm G
Thy father bred me great annoy!
Am Em Am
Balow!

And thow, my darleinge, sleepe awhyle,
And when thow waikest, sueetlie smyle!
O doe not smyle as thy father did
To Cousinge maides: may God forbid!
But yet I feare that thow wilt leare
Thy father's face and hart to beare
Balow!

When he begane to court my loue,
And with his sugared wordes to move,
His fained tongue and flattering cheare
That tyme to me did not apeire;
But now I see that craven he
Caires nather for my babe nor me.
Balow!

Fairwell, fairwell, the falsest youthe
That ever kist a womans mouthe!
Let never maiden efter me
Commit hir to thy curtasie!
For crevell thow,
if once not how.
Balow!

I cannot chuse, but ever will
Be loueinge to thy father still,
Though cuning he procured my hart,
That can in no wayse from him pairt.
In weell or woe, whare ere he goe,
My hart sall never pairt him fro!
Balow!

Heir, by my greeff. I vowe and sueare,
Thé, and all vthers, to forbear.
I'le never kise, nor cull, nor clape,
But lull my younglinge in my lape.
Hart, do not greeve! leave off to
murne!
And sleepe securelie, hart, allone!
Balow!

Here's the tune according to Simpson:

B021- Balow (my babe)


♩ - 120

The musical score is written on three staves in G major (one sharp) and 2/4 time. The tempo is marked as 120 beats per minute. The first staff contains the first four measures of the melody. The second staff contains the next four measures. The third staff contains the final two measures, ending with a double bar line.

From Morley's "First Booke of Consort Lessons" (1599):

Here's the Flute part.

For the Flute.



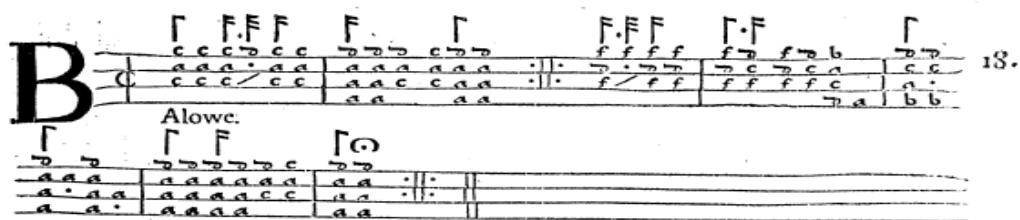
Here's the Bass line.

18. **B** *Alowc.*



Here's the Cithern Part:

For the Cithern.



Here's the Pandora part:

For the Pandora.



The rhyme in the Simpson version of the lyric is: A B A B C C, where the 1st line rhymes with the third, 2nd rhymes 4th, and 5th rhymes sixth. The trouble with this is that the lyric actually would support better a scansion like, A A B C B C like the Morley version, since it has 2 two-measure musical phrases followed by 2 four-measure phrases. To make the Simpson lyrics work, you pretty much have to assume that the first 4 measures (2 measures repeated) have to be played as an introduction, then the lyrics actually start halfway through the music. Then each rhyming couplet falls on identical music to the words it rhymes with. The alternatives are to ignore the fact that the music obviously is backwards to the lyric, which doesn't work, or to simply rework the Simpson music back to front to match the lyric. Then you match the lyric and the Morley scansion. This is the route I took to make it work.

Balowe - A Lullabye

Music Adapted
from Thomas Morley,
"First Consort Lessons" - 1599

Words 1597
by Richard Jones in
"Arbor of Amorous Devices"

Voice

Am F C Em G Am Em
Balow my babe lie still___ and sleep It___greives me sore to see thee___weep If

Am F C Em G Am Em
thou wert quyet I would___ be glad Thy mur mur ing makes thy moth er sad___

Dm G Dm G Am Em
Balow my boy thy moth___er's joy Thy father bred me great___ an noy! Ba low!

Am