

# Shall I Come Sweet Love To Thee

Although Campion was not a professional musician, having trained first in law and later in medicine, his poetry and music are among the finest examples of the period. This song is taken from his first *Book of Ayres*. He published four books of "ayres" altogether and shared another with Philip Rosseter. In an introduction he wrote, "These Ayres were for the most part framed at first for one voice with the lute or viol, but upon occasion they have since been filled with more parts, which who so please may use, who like not may leave."

The song should be taken at a gentle tempo to fit the lyric. The singer may wish to ornament one of the verses; a typical example of florid ornamentation is given for this song in the *New Oxford History of Music* (vol. 4, edited by Gerald E. Abraham, 1968, p. 217).

6th to D

Thomas Campion

Shall I come sweet love to thee,

The first system of musical notation for the song. It consists of a vocal line and a lute line. The vocal line is in 4/4 time and begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (Bb). The lyrics are "Shall I come sweet love to thee,". The lute line is in 4/4 time and begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat. It features various lute tablature symbols (numbers 0-4) and rhythmic markings (vertical lines) above the staff.

When the evening beams are set?

The second system of musical notation. The vocal line continues with the lyrics "When the evening beams are set?". The lute line continues with tablature and rhythmic markings. A "1/2 I" marking is present above the first measure of the lute line.

Shall I not exclud - ed be?

The third system of musical notation. The vocal line continues with the lyrics "Shall I not exclud - ed be?". The lute line continues with tablature and rhythmic markings.

Will you find no faint-ed let?

Let me not for pity more, Tell the

long, long hours, Tell the long hours at your door.

Who can tell what thief or foe,  
 In the cover of the night,  
 For his prey will work my woe;  
 Or through wicked soul despite,  
 So may I die unredressed,  
 Ere my long, long love,  
 Ere my long love be possessed.

But to let such dangers pass,  
 Which a lover's thoughts disdain,  
 'Tis enough in such a place,  
 To attend love's joys in vain.  
 Do not mock me in thy bed,  
 While the cold, cold nights,  
 While these cold nights freeze me dead.



Hall I come sweet Loueto thee, When the evening beames are set?