

My prime of youth

Chidiock Tichborne, 1586 (Part 1 only)

Cantus

John Mundy

The musical score consists of a single cantus part in common time, written in a treble clef with a key signature of one flat. The music is divided into staves by measure numbers (9, 17, 25, 35, 44, 53, 62, 70) and features various note values including eighth and sixteenth notes. The lyrics are integrated with the music, appearing below the staff. The lyrics describe the speaker's life as a period of suffering and loss.

My prime of youth is but a frost, — is but a frost of cares, of —
— cares, My feast of joy is but a dish of pain, my feast of joy is but a
dish of pain, My crop of corn is but a field of tares, but a field, a field of
tares, And all my goods is but vain hope of
gain. The day is past, the day is past, and yet I saw no sun;
And now I live, and now my life is done, and now I live, I live, and
now my life is done, my life is done. In deep dis-tress to
live with-out de-light, Were such a life as few, as few I think would
crave. In pangs and pains to lan-guish day and night, in pangs and

79 pains to lan- guish day and night, Were too, too much for one poor soul to have.

87 If weal_and woe will thus con- tin- ue strife, if_ weal_and woe will

95 thus con- tin- ue strife, A gen- tle death were good to cut off such a life,

101 to cut off such a_____ life, a gen- tle death were good to cut off

109 such a life, a gen- tle death were good, were good to cut off such_ a life.