# Love

LOVE bade me welcome; yet my soul drew back,
        Guilty of dust and sin.
But quick-eyed Love, observing me grow slack
        From my first entrance in,
Drew nearer to me, sweetly questioning
        If I lack'd anything.

'A guest,' I answer'd, 'worthy to be here:'
        Love said, 'You shall be he.'
'I, the unkind, ungrateful? Ah, my dear,
        I cannot look on Thee.'
Love took my hand and smiling did reply,
        'Who made the eyes but I?'

'Truth, Lord; but I have marr'd them: let my shame
        Go where it doth deserve.'
'And know you not,' says Love, 'Who bore the blame?'
        'My dear, then I will serve.'
'You must sit down,' says Love, 'and taste my meat.'
        So I did sit and eat.

*George Herbert*
*(1593–1633)*


*Love bade me welcome* was written as the anthem for a Matins service broadcast on BBC Radio 4 on Sunday 18 February 2007. It was performed by Schola Cantorum of Oxford, directed by James Burton, along with music specially composed for the occasion. The Matins setting was the twin of the Oxford Blues Service, a full programme of music for Choral Evensong written the previous summer and broadcast on BBC Radio 3 Choral Evensong on 21 June 2006 by the same forces. Much of the rest of the music for both services was scored for choir and jazz trio (piano, bass and drums with organ *ad lib.*), but this anthem was specifically written for unaccompanied voices in the hope that it could stand alone as a piece in the jazz idiom while remaining within the bounds of mainstream choral music.


Duration: c. 4½ minutes

# Love bade me welcome

George Herbert
(1593–1633)

Roderick Williams
(b.1965)

**Quasi recitative, con molto rubato espressivo**

*) **p** *con tendrezza*

Soprano

Alto

Tenor

Bass

Love bade me wel-come: yet my soul drew back, guilt-y of dust and sinne. But quick-ey'd Love, ob-serv-ing me grow slack From my first en-trance in, Drew near-er to me,— sweet-ly ques-tion-ing—— If I lack'd an-y-thing. A guest, I an-swer'd,

*molto cresc.*     *mf dolce*

*p cresc.*