

Awake Sweet Love

Composed by John Dowland (1563-1626), the most famous English composer and singer of the English Renaissance. He is best known for his song *Flow my Tears*. *Awake Sweet Love* is a madrigal and Renaissance love song that belongs to the *First Booke of Songs or Ayres* published in 1597. The collection which was reprinted several times reprinted and widely imitated, contains many songs related to specific courtiers of Elisabeth I's circle.

Awake, sweet love! Thou art return'd,
My heart, which long in absence mourn'd,
Lives now in perfect joy.

Let love, which never absent dies,
Now live forever in her eyes,
Whence came my first annoy.

Only herself hath seemed fair,
She only I could love,
She only drove me to despair,
When she unkind did prove.

Despair did make me wish to die,
That I my griefs might end,
She only which did make me fly,
My state may now amend.

Awake, sweet love! Thou art return'd,
My heart, which long in absence mourn'd,
Lives now in perfect joy.