

Drink to me only with thine eyes (To Celia)

Poem written by Ben Jonson (1572-1637). Jonson was an English Renaissance dramatist, poet and actor. He is best known for his plays *Volpone* and *The Alchemist* and his poems. One of his most famous poems is *To Celia*, which appears in *Volpone*, and is equally well-known in its musical form, which is thought to date from the eighteenth century.

Drink to me only with thine eyes
And I will pledge with mine.
Or leave a kiss within the cup
And I'll not ask for wine.
The thirst that from the soul doth rise
Doth ask a drink divine;
But might I of Jove's nectar sip,
I would not change for thine.

I sent thee late a rosy wreath,
Not so much hon'ring thee
As giving it a hope that there
It could not withered be;
But thou thereon did'st only breathe,
And sent'st it back to me,
Since when it grows and smells, I swear
Not of itself, but thee.