



About Contemporary Voices

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Preview File Only

Richard Baker

To keep a good Lent

(2001)

To keep a good Lent

Is it a Fast, to keep
The larder lean?
And clean
From fat of veals and sheep?

Is it to quit the dish
Of flesh, yet still
To fill
The platter high with fish?

Is it to fast an hour,
Or ragg'd to go
Or show
A down-cast look and sour?

No: 'tis a Fast to dole
Thy sheaf of wheat
And meat
Unto the hungry soul.

It is to fast from strife
And old debate,
And hate;
To circumcise thy life.

To show a heart grief-rent;
To starve thy sin,
Not bin;
And that's to keep thy Lent.

Robert Herrick (1591-1674)

for Malcolm Archer and the choir of Wells Cathedral

To keep a good Lent

Robert Herrick

Richard Baker

With vigour ($\text{♩} = 132$)

(2+2+3)

Soprano

Alto

Tenor

Bass

pp

mp

Is it? Is it? Is it a? Is it a?

Is it? Is it? Is it a? Is it a?

5 (2+3) (2+2+3)

S. *pp* *mp* *pp*

A. *pp* *mp* *pp*

T. *pp* *mp* *pp*

B. *pp* *mp* *pp*

Is it? Is it? Is it a? Is it? Is it a?

Is it? Is it? Is it a? Is it? Is it?

10 (2+3) **A** *mf marcato*

S. *mf marcato*

A. *mf marcato*

T. *mp*

B. *mp* *p*

Is it a Fast? Is it a? Is it a Fast to Is it?

Is it a Fast? Is it a Fast to Is it?

Is it a Is it a Is it a

to keep to keep

13 (2+3) *f*

S. Fast to keep The lar - der lean? From

A. Fast to keep The lar - der lean? From

T. And clean From

B. Is it a? Is it a? a Fast to keep it lean? From

Is it? a Fast to keep And clean From

B

16

S. fat of veals, from fat of veals and sheep?

A. fat of veals, from fat of veals and sheep?

T. fat of veals, from fat of veals and sheep?

B. fat of veals, from fat of veals Is it? Is it?

fat of veals, from fat of veals and sheep? Is it? Is it?

20 *mf* (2+3) *f*

S. Is it to quit the dish Of flesh, yet

A. Is it to quit the dish Of flesh, yet

T.

B. Is it? Is it? Is it to? Is it to? Is it to quit?

Is it to? Is it to quit? Is it? Is it to quit?

C

23

S. still, yet still To fill the plat - ter high with fish?

A. still, yet still To fill the plat - ter high with fish?

T. To fill, To fill the plat - - ter high with fish?

To fill, To fill the plat - - ter high with fish?

B. still to fill the plat - ter high Is it?

To fill, to fill the plat - ter high Is it?

27 *mf*

S. — Is it to fast, to fast an hour, —

A. — Is it to fast, to fast an hour,

T. — Is it to fast, to fast an

B. Is it? Is it? Is it? Is it? Is it? Is it to?

Is it? Is it to? Is it to? Is it? Is it to

32 *f*

S. Or ragg'd to go Or show A down - cast look, a

A. Or ragg'd to go Or show A down - cast look, a

T. hour, — to go — Or show — A down - cast look,

B. Is it? Is it? Is it a fast? a fast to

fast? Is it to fast? Is it a? a fast to show, to

35 **D** *ff*

S. down - cast look and sour? No! *ff*

A. down - cast look and sour? No!

T. a down - cast look and sour? *Solo ff* 'tis a Fast, a Fast to
ff (gli altri)

B. show A down - cast look and sour? No! *ff* *mp*

show A down - cast look and sour? No! *ff* *mp*

40 **E** *ff*

S. And meat No! *ff*

A. And meat No!

T. dole thy sheaf of wheat *ff* It is to

B. Un - to the hun - gry soul. No! *ff* *mp*

Un - to the hun - gry soul. No! *ff* *mp*

45 (2+2+3)

S. *sf* *p* *mf*
And hate, hate

A. *sf* *p* *mf*
And hate, hate

T. fast, to fast from strife And old de bate,

B. *f*
To cir-cum-cise, to
f
To cir-cum-cise, to

49 *p* **F** *ff*

S. No!

A. *p* *ff*
No!

T. *f*
'tis To show a heart grief - rent, grief -

B. *ff* *p*
cir - cum-cise thy life. No!
ff *p*
cir - cum-cise thy life. No!

54

S. *mf* *mf* *mp* *ff*
 Not bin, not bin, not bi(n) n

A. *mf* *mf* *mp* *ff*
 Not bin, not bin, not bi(n) n

T. (solo) *ff*
 rent To starve thy sin, *mp* *f* *mp* *f* *mp* *ff*
 (gli altri) thy sin, thy si(n) n tutti div.

B. *mf* *mf* *ff*
 Not bin, not bin, not bi(n) n

mf *mf* *ff*
 Not bin, not bin, not bi(n) n

G

59 *fff tutta forza*

S. *fff tutta forza*
 And that's to keep, And that's to keep thy, And that's to keep,

A. *fff tutta forza*
 And that's to keep, And that's to keep thy, And that's to keep,

T. *fff tutta forza*
 And that's to keep, And that's to keep thy, And that's to keep,

B. *fff tutta forza*
 And that's to keep, And that's to keep thy, And that's to keep,

And that's to keep, And that's to keep thy, And that's to keep,



(2+3)

62

S. And that's to, And that's to keep, And that's to keep thy,

A. And that's to, And that's to keep, And that's to keep thy, And that's to *mp*

T. And that's to, And that's to keep, And that's to keep thy, And that's to *mp*

B. And that's to, And that's to keep, And that's to keep thy, And that's to *mp*

And that's to, And that's to keep, And that's to keep thy, And that's to

(2+2+3)

66

S. *ff* And that's thy Lent.

A. keep thy, *ff* And that's, *mp* And that's to keep thy, *p* keep thy Lent. *ff*

T. keep thy, *ff* And that's, *mp* And that's to keep thy, *p* keep thy Lent. *ff*

B. And that's, *ff* thy Lent. *ff*

keep thy, And that's, And that's to keep thy, keep thy Lent.