Sweet Honey Sucking Bees
5-part madrigal arranged for clarinet quintet

From John Kilpatrick's choral edition: set in the original key, with some parts reallocated as in the Fellows edition of 1924.

John Wilbye (1574-1638)
arr. John Kilpatrick

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Sweet honey sucking bees why do you still
Surfeit on roses pinks and violets,
As if the choicest nectar lay in them
Wherewith you store your curious cabinets?
Ah, make your flight to melisuavia's lips;
There may you revel in ambrosian cheer,
Where smiling roses and sweet lilies sit,
Keeping their springtime graces all the year.

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Yet, sweet take heed,
All sweets are hard to get.
Sting not her soft lips,
Oh beware of that,
For if one flaming dart
Come from her eye,
Was never dart so sharp,
Ah then you die.
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