

Be Kind and Courteous

Tytania's aria from the opera *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (soprano)

Text by *Benjamin Britten* (1913-1976) [Br] and *Peter Pears* (1910-1986) [Br] after a play by the same name by *William Shakespeare* (1564-1616) [Br]

Set by *Benjamin Britten* (1913-1976) [Br]

Be kind and courteous to this gentleman;¹
[bi ka:ɪnd ænd 'kɜː.tjəs tu ðɪs 'dʒɛn.təl.mən]

Hop in his walks and gambol in his eyes;
Feed him with apricocks and dewberries,
With purple grapes, green figs, and mulberries;
The honey-bags steal from the humble-bees,
And for night-tapers crop their waxen thighs
And light them at the fiery glow-worm's eyes,
To have my love to bed and to arise;
And pluck the wings from Painted butterflies
To fan the moonbeams from his sleeping eyes:
Nod to him, elves, and do him courtesies.

The entire text to this title with the complete
IPA transcription and translation is available for download.

Thank you!



¹ Although the libretto, modified by Britten and Pears, is under copyright, the text for this aria is taken verbatim from the Shakespeare original and is therefore give here.