

# CONTENTS

PREFACE	xiii
ABBREVIATIONS AND REFERENCES	xv
INTRODUCTION	xviii
<i>Medieval English Lyrics</i>	xviii
<i>Lyric Stanza and Metre</i>	xxxvii
<i>Guidance on Metrical Reading</i>	xliii
<i>Middle English: Manuscripts and Language</i>	xlvi
<i>Pronunciation Guide</i>	xlvii
PREFACE TO TEXTS	xlix

## PART I: *Love Lyrics* 1

1. With longing I am lad	3
2. A waylë whyte as whallës bon	4
3. Ichot a byrde in bourë bryght	6
4. Litel wot it any man	9
5. Ichot a byrde in a bour	10
6. Love is soft, love is swet	13
7. Though I can wittës ful-iwis	15
8. Were ther outhur in this toun	15
9. Of every kinnë tre	16
10. Al night by the rosë, rosë	16
11. Al gold, Janet, is thin her	17
12. Dorë, go thou stillë	17
13. Ich have y-don al myn youth	17
14. So longe Ich havë, lady	17
15. Bryd onë brerë	18
16. Foulës in the frith	18
17. When the nyghtëgalë singeth	18
18. Bitwenë March and Avëril	20
19. In May it mirieth when it dawës	21

20. Lenten ys come with love to toune 22  
 21. As I me rode this endrē dai 24  
 22. In a fryth as I gan farē fremēde 25  
 23. As I stod on a day 28  
 24. My deth I love, my lyf Ich hatē 29  
 25. Moste I ryde by Rybbēsdale 32  
 26. Alas, hou sholde I sing 34  
 27. Weping hath myn wongēs wet 34  
 28. Now welcome, somer, with thy sonnē softe 37  
 29. *To Rosēmounde* 37  
 30. *Womanly Noblesse* 38  
 31. *Canticus Troili* 39  
 32. *Against Women Unconstant* 40  
 33. *Complaynt D'Amours* 41  
 34. *Merciles Beauté* 44  
 35. *A Balade of Complaynte* 45

PART II: *Penitential and Moral Lyrics* 47

36. Miri it is while sumer i-last 49  
 37. Lavedy seynte Marie 49  
 38. Worldēs blis ne last no throwē 52  
 39. Man mai longe him livēs wenē 54  
 40. On hire is al mi lif y-long 56  
 41. Ech day me comēth tydinges thre 57  
 42. Whan I thenkē thingēs thre 57  
 43. If man him bithoughtē 58  
 44. Whan mine eyen mistēth 58  
 45. Whan the turuf is thy tour 59  
 46. Whan Ich thenche on domēs-dai 59  
 47. Where ben they before us were 62  
 48. No more ne will I wiked be 64  
 49. Lord, thou clepedest me 64  
 50. Lullay, lullay, litel child, why wepēstou so sore? 65  
 51. Hye Loverd, thou here my bone 67  
 52. Wynter wakenēth al my care 70  
 53. Nou shrinkēth rose and lylie-flour 71  
 54. Middelerd for man was mad 73

55. Erthē tok of erthe erthē wyth wogh 75  
 56. Wrechē man, why art thou prowde 75  
 57. Was ther never caren so lothe 76  
 58. The Lavēdi Fortunē is bothe frend and fo 76  
 59. Kyngē I syt and loke aboute 76  
 60. Whan men ben meriest at her mele 77  
 61. I woldē wite of sum wys wight 82  
 62. *Fortune* 86  
 63. *Truth* 89  
 64. *Gentillesse* 90  
 65. Every day thou myghtēst lere 91  
 66. If thou serve a lord of prys 92

PART III: *Devotional Lyrics* 93

67. Swetē Jhesu, king of blisse 95  
 68. Jhesú, swete is the love of thee 95  
 69. Now I se blosmē sprynge 97  
 70. Love me broughte 99  
 71. Alas! alas! wel evel I sped! 99  
 72. I am Jhesú, that com to fight 100  
 73. In the vaile of restles mynd 100  
 74. Levēdie, Ich thonkē thee 104  
 75. Of on that is so fayr and bright 105  
 76. Edi be thou, hevenē quenē 106  
 77. Gabriel, from hevenē king 108  
 78. Now this foulēs singēth 109  
 79. I syng of a mayden 111  
 80. I saw a fair maiden 112  
 81. As I lay upon a night 113  
 82. Lullay, lullay, litel child, child réstē thee a throwe 115  
 83. Ler to love as I love thee 117  
 84. Now goth sonnē under wode 118  
 85. Whyt was hys naked brest 118  
 86. Whyt is thi naked brest 119  
 87. Whan Ich se on rode 119  
 88. Worldēs blissē, have god day! 120  
 89. The mildē Lamb, y-sprad o rodē 120

90. Jesu Cristës mildë moder 122  
 91. Stond wel, moder, under rodë 124  
 92. Why have ye no routhe on my child? 126  
 93. *Lovely ter of lovely eye* 127  
 94. I sike al when I singe 128  
 95. My trewest tresowre sa trayturly was taken 130  
 96. Gold and al this worldës wyn 131  
 97. Crist maketh to man a fair present 132  
 98. A sory beverage it is 133  
 99. Ye that pasen be the wey 134  
 100. My folk, now answerë me 134  
 101. Jhesus doth him bymene 135  
 102. Lo! lemman swete, now may thou se 137  
 103. Stedfast crosse, among alle other 137  
 104. What is he, this lordling 137  
 105. As I me rod this ender day 139  
 106. Somer is come and winter gon 141  
 107. Lullay, lullay, litel child 143  
 108. Adam lay y-bownden 144

PART IV: *Miscellaneous Lyrics* 147

109. Er ne couthe Ich sorwë non 149  
 110. Somer is y-comen in 150  
 111. Say me, wight in the brom 151  
 112. Hit was upon a Shere Thursday 151  
 113. Ich herde men upon mold 154  
 114. Man in the moonë stont and strit 158  
 115. Of rybaudz I ryme 160  
 116. Skottes out of Berwik 162  
 117. *Ich am of Irlande* 165  
 118. Maiden in the morë lay 165  
 119. D . . . dronken 166  
 120. *The Complaint of Chaucer to his Purse* 167  
 121. Whan I have in myn purs y-now 168  
 122. I have a gentil cok 168  
 123. *Omnes gentes plaudite!* 169  
 124. I have a yong suster 170

xi CONTENTS

125. I have a newe garden 171  
126. Seynt Stevene was a clerk 172  
127. Yong men, I warne you everychon 173  
128. We bern aboute no cattës skinnes 174  
129. As I went on Yol Day 175  
130. Thou that sellest the worde of God 176  
131. Allas! what shul we frerës do 177  
132. Swarte smeköd smithes smatered with smoke 178

COMMENTARY 181

APPENDICES

A: *Music and Metre* 251

B: *The Syllabic Analysis of Middle English Verse* 254

SELECT BIBLIOGRAPHY 258

INDEX 263