

Sonnet 8

Music to hear, why hear'st thou music sadly?
Sweets with sweets war not, joy delights in joy.
Why lovest thou that which thou receivest not gladly,
Or else receivest with pleasure thine annoy?
If the true concord of well-tuned sounds,
By unions married, do offend thine ear,
They do but sweetly chide thee, who confounds
In singleness the parts that thou shouldst bear.
Mark how one string, sweet husband to another,
Strikes each in each by mutual ordering,
Resembling sire and child and happy mother
Who all in one, one pleasing note do sing:
Whose speechless song, being many, seeming one,
Sings this to thee: 'thou single wilt prove none.'

Chiasmus. A rhetorical figure in which words, grammatical constructions, or concepts are repeated in reverse order, in the same or a modified form. Look at the first line above. This crossing of ideas strives to achieve a greater meaning.

Assonance. The repetition of the sound of a vowel or diphthong in nonrhyming syllables, usually stressed, near enough to each other for the echo to be discernible. Again, a technique used to convey additional meaning.

Alliteration. A term generally used to describe the repetition of consonants each stressed within the meter of the verse.

Consonance. A term with a slightly fluid meaning, but here referring to repeated consonants within verse, usually at the end of stressed syllables.

Sibilance. The rhetorical effect caused by repeated and meaningful use of the letter "s" or "sh" to create a hissing sound.