

An interest in the poetry of John Skelton led me to write Five Love Songs, which I intended as a complement to my publication entitled Eight Comic Songs. The fifth poem, "Mannerly Margery," puzzled me a good deal. With the help of the critic Andrew Porter, and a neighbor English professor Donald Foster, I determined that it is a dialogue between a young student and a milkmaid whose amorous favors he sought.

Karen Holvik, soprano, and Brian Suits, piano, gave the premiere at Vassar College on November 24, 1996.

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