

SPEED'S SONG

written for Act 2, Scene 1, of an aborted musical
version of *Two Gentlemen of Verona* at UCSC

words: Tom Lehrer

music: "Torna a Surriento" by Ernesto De Curtis

All day long you whine and whimper,
Sighing sighs and looking vague,
Fold your arms and look tormented
(And) hide as if you had the plague.

War-bl-ing pathetic love songs,
Tossing in your sleep at night,
Weeping [*sob*] --- just as if you'd lost your mother,
Fasting with no appetite.

Once you used to laugh at lovers
When they spoke of how it feels,
Weeping [*sob*] --- only when you needed money,
Fasting only between meals.

You may be my master,
But look how you behave!
Love is the master now,
You are the slave.

from *The Two Gentlemen of Verona*, Act 2, Scene 1

Valentine: Go to, sir. Tell me, do you know Madam Silvia?

Speed: She that your worship loves?

Valentine: Why, how know you that I am in love?

Speed: Marry, by these special marks: first, you have learned, like Sir Proteus, to wreath your arms like a malcontent, to relish a love-song like a robin-redbreast, to walk alone like one that had the pestilence, to sigh like a schoolboy that had lost his A B C, to weep like a young wench that had buried her grandam, to fast like one that takes diet, to watch like one that fears robbing, to speak puling like a beggar at Hallowmas. You were wont, when you laughed, to crow like a cock; when you walked, to walk like one of the lions; when you fasted, it was presently after dinner; when you looked sadly, it was for want of money. And now you are metamorphosed with a mistress, that when I look on you, I can hardly think you my master.
