

Friendly Persuasion (Thee I Love)

As sung by Pat Boone

Thee I love, more than the meadow so green and still,
More than the mulberries on the hill,
More than the buds on a May apple tree, I love thee.

Arms have I, strong as the oak for this occasion.
Lips have I to kiss thee, too, in friendly persuasion.

Thee is mine, though I don't know many words of praise,
Thee pleasures me in a hundred ways.
Put on your bonnet, your cape, and your glove,
And come with me, for thee I love.

Friendly persuasion

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With music by Dimitri Tiomkin and lyrics by Paul Francis Webster, Friendly Persuasion was published in 1956 and appeared in the 1956 film of the same name. At the 29th Academy Awards, Friendly Persuasion was nominated for the Best Music – Song, but lost out to "Que Sera, Sera.

Other versions of the song were recorded by The four Aces, Johnny Mathis, Bing Crosby and Aretha Franklin. The title is a play on words, since the film centers on a Quaker family, a religion known as the "Society of Friends." Thus, they are said to be of the "Friendly" persuasion.