

If Women Could be Fair

William Byrd (c.1540-1623)

Dow Partbooks (Christ Church, 1580s, Oxford MSS 984-988)

Superius

Medius

Contra

Tenor

Bassus

If wo-men could be

5

fair and ne-ver fond, or that their beau-ty might con-tin-ue still,

10

I would not mar-vel though they made men bond by ser-

15

vice long. by ser-vice long to pur-chase their good will.

20

But when I see how frail how frail these crea-tures are. I laugh I

25

laugh if men for - get them-selves so far But when I see

30

how frail how frail these crea-tures are I laugh I laugh if men for -

35

get them-selves so far for - get them-selves so_ far.