

If Women Could be Fair

William Byrd (c.1540-1623)

Superius (part 1 of 5)

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

3 5

If wo-men could be fair and ne - ver fond, or that their beau -

10

ty might con - tin - ue still, I would not mar - vel though they made men bond

15

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

1 20

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

25 1

I laugh I laugh if men for - get them - selves so far

30

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

35

laugh if men for - get them - selves so far for - get them - selves so far.

If Women Could be Fair

William Byrd (c.1540-1623)

Medius (part 2 of 5)

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

The image displays a musical score for a piece titled "If Women Could be Fair" by William Byrd. The score is presented in a single system with seven staves, each representing a different voice part. The music is written in a style characteristic of the late 16th century, featuring a mix of whole, half, and quarter notes, often with beams connecting them. The key signature is one flat (B-flat), and the time signature is 6/8. The score is divided into measures, with measure numbers 2, 5, 10, 15, 20, 25, 30, and 35 indicated above the staves. The notation includes various accidentals (sharps, flats, naturals) and rests. The piece concludes with a final cadence on the seventh staff.

If Women Could be Fair

William Byrd (c.1540-1623)

Contra (part 3 of 5)

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

5

10

15

20

25

30

35

If Women Could be Fair

William Byrd (c.1540-1623)

Tenor (part 4 of 5)

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

1

5

10

15

20

25

30

35

If Women Could be Fair

William Byrd (c.1540-1623)

Bassus (part 5 of 5)

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

1 5 10 15 20 25 30 35