

Susanna fayre

William Byrd (c.1540-1623)

Songs of sundrie natures (London, 1589)

Superius
Su - san - na fair some - time as - saul - ted was by two old

Tenor
Su - san - na fair some - time as - saul - ted was

Bassus
Su - san - na fair some - time, some - time as - saul - ted was by

men, de - si - ring their de - light, their de - light, which lewd in - tent

by two old men, de - si - ring their de - light, which lewd in -

two old men, de - si - ring their de - light, which

they thought to bring to pass, if not by ten - der love, by

tent, which lewd in - tent, which lewd in - tent they thought to bring to pass,

lewd in - tent they thought to bring to pass, to bring - to pass, if not by

ten - der love, if not by ten - der love, if not by ten - der love, by

if not by ten - der love, if not by ten - der love, by force -

ten - der love, by force and might, by force and - might, by force and -

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force and might, to whom she said, *to whom she said*, if I your suit de - ny, you will me
 - and - might, to whom she said, if I your suit de - ny, your suit de - ny, you
 - might, to whom she said, *to whom she said*, if I your suit de - ny, de - ny,

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false - ly ac - cuse, and make me die, and make me die, and make me
 will me false - ly ac - cuse, and make me die, me die, and make me die, make me
 you will me false - ly ac - cuse, and make me die, and make me

die. And if I grant to that which you re-quest, my chas - ti - ty shall then de -
 die. And if I grant to that which you re-quest, my chas -
 die. And if I grant to that which you re-quest,

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flower - ed be, shall then de-flower - ed be, my chas - ti - ty shall
 ti - ty shall then de-flower - ed be, my chas - ti - ty shall then de-flower - ed
 my chas - ti - ty shall then de - flower - ed be, shall then de -

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then de - flower - ed be, which is so dear to me, that I de - test my life, my life,
 be, de - flower - ed be, which is so dear to me, to me, as I de - test my life, my life,
 flower - ed be, which is so dear to me, to me, that I de - test my life, my life, if

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if it be-reft-ed be from me, from_ me, and ra-ther would I die *and ra-ther*
 _ if it be-reft - ed be from me, from me, and ra-ther would I die
 it be-reft - ed be from me, and ra-ther would I die_____ of mine ac-cord,

would I die of mine ac-cord, of mine ac - cord, ten thou - sand times, *ten thou -*
and ra-ther would I die of mine ac-cord, of mine ac - cord, ten_ thou - sand times, *ten*
 of mine ac - cord, of mine ac - cord, ten thou-sand times, *ten thou-sand times,*

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sand times, than once of-fend our Lord, of-fend our Lord, than once of - fend our Lord.
thou-sand times, ten thou - sand times, than once of - fend our Lord, than once of-fend our_ Lord.
 ten thou - sand times, than once, than once of - fend our Lord, of - fend our Lord.

Susanna fair sometime assaulted was
by two old men, desiring their delight,
which lewd intent they thought to bring to pass,
if not by tender love, by force and might,
to whom she said, if I your suit deny,
you will me falsely accuse, and make me die.

And if I grant to that which you request,
my chastity shall then deflowered be,
which is so dear to me, that I detest
my life, if it berefted be from me,
and rather would I die of mine accord,
ten thousand times, than once offend our Lord.