

# If Women Could be Fair

William Byrd (c.1540-1623)

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

Musical score for five voices: Superius, Medius, Contra, Tenor, and Bassus. The score shows the first four measures of the piece. The Superius and Medius parts have rests in the first measure. The Contra, Tenor, and Bassus parts begin with a half note in the first measure. The key signature has one flat (B-flat) and the time signature is 6/8.

5

Musical score with lyrics for measures 5-8. The lyrics are: "If wo-men could be fair and ne-ver fond, or that their beau-". The score includes vocal lines and lute tablature below. The Superius part has a fermata over the final note of measure 7.

10

Musical score with lyrics for measures 10-13. The lyrics are: "ty might con-tin-ue still, I would not mar-vel though they made". The score includes vocal lines and lute tablature below. The Superius part has a fermata over the final note of measure 10.

15

men bond by ser-vice long. by ser-vice long to pur-chase their good

20

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

25

are. I laugh I laugh if men for-get them-selves so

far But when I see how frail how frail

30

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

35

get them - selves so far for - get them - selves so\_ far.