

White as lillies was her face

John Dowland 1600

First system of musical notation for the song, featuring five staves (S, A, T, B, C) with complex melodic lines and many accidentals.

Second system of musical notation, continuing the complex melodic lines across five staves.

White as lillies was her face,
When she smiled She beguiled,
Quitting faith with foul disgrace.
Virtue, service thus neglected,
Heart with sorrows, hath infected.

When I swore my heart her own,
She disdained; I complained;
Yet she left me overthrown,
Careless of my bitter grieving,
Ruthless, bent to no relieving.

O that love should have the art
By surmises And disguises
To destroy a faithful heart;
Or that wanton-looking women
Should reward their friends as foemen.