

If Women Could be Fair

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

Wilham Byrd
(c.1540-1623)

Intavolierung - Anton Höger

Superius

g - L1

g - L2

If wo-men could be

Detailed description: This block contains the first system of the musical score. It features three staves: Superius (top), g-L1 (middle), and g-L2 (bottom). The Superius staff is in treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a 6/2 time signature. It begins with a whole rest followed by a half note G4, then a quarter note A4, and a quarter note B4. The g-L1 and g-L2 staves are in 6/2 time and use a lute-style notation with letters (a, b, c, e) and rhythmic flags. The lyrics 'If wo-men could be' are aligned with the Superius staff.

5

5

5

fair and ne-ver — fond, or that their beau - ty might continue still,

Detailed description: This block contains the second system of the musical score, starting at measure 5. It features three staves: Superius (top), g-L1 (middle), and g-L2 (bottom). The Superius staff continues with a half note C5, a quarter note D5, a quarter note E5, a quarter note F#5, a quarter note G5, a quarter note A5, and a quarter note B5. The g-L1 and g-L2 staves continue with their respective lute-style notation. The lyrics 'fair and ne-ver — fond, or that their beau - ty might continue still,' are aligned with the Superius staff.

10

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

10

14

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

14

14

19

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

19

19

24

laugh if men — for - get themselves so ar But when I see

29

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

34

get them? selves so far for - get themselves so - far.

a.