

# If Women Could be Fair

William Byrd (c.1540-1623)

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

Superius

Medius

Contra

Tenor

Bassus

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

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.