

If Women Could be Fair

Wilham Byrd

(c.1540-1623)

Intavolierung - Anton Höger

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

Superius

If wo- men could be fair and ne- ver

g - L1

g - L2

6

fond, or that their beau- ty might con- tin- ue still, I would

g - L1

g - L2

~

not mar- vel though they made men bond by ser- vice long.

g - L1

g - L2

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

The first system of music consists of three staves. The top staff is a vocal line in G major (one sharp) with lyrics: "by ser- vice long to pur- chase their good will." The middle staff is a figured bass line with notes: a, c, e, b, e, c, a, e, c, a, d. The bottom staff is a lute tablature with notes: a, a, a, a, b, c, a, b, c, e, c, e.

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

The second system of music consists of three staves. The top staff is a vocal line in G major with lyrics: "But when I see how frail how frail these crea- tures are. I laugh I". The middle staff is a figured bass line with notes: a, c, c, a, a, a, c, d, a, a, c, d, c, e, e, a, c, e, e, c, b, e. The bottom staff is a lute tablature with notes: e, d, d, c, a, c, a, a, d, a, d, c, a, c, d, c, a, c, a, a, a, c, e, a, c, a, c.

laugh if men for- get them- selves so ar

The third system of music consists of three staves. The top staff is a vocal line in G major with lyrics: "laugh if men for- get them- selves so ar". The middle staff is a figured bass line with notes: e, a, c, a, a, c, a, c, e, a, e, a, a, e, e, c, e, a, c, e, e, b, c, a, c, b, a, e, b, e, a, b. The bottom staff is a lute tablature with notes: a, a, c, c, a, b, a, a, c, e, a, e, a, c, e, a, e, a, e, a, e, c, a, e, c, b, c, b, c, e, e, e, c, e, c.

But when I see how frail how frail these creatures are I laugh I

laugh if men forget themselves so far forget themselves so far.