

If Women Could be Fair

William Byrd (c.1540-1623)

Superius (part 1 of 5)

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

3 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 men bond

15

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

1 20

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

25 1

I laugh I laugh if men for - get them - selves so far

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

35

laugh if men for - get them - selves so far for - get them - selves so — far.