

Susanna fayre

William Byrd (c.1540-1623)

Bassus (part 3 of 3)

Songs of sundrie natures (London, 1589)



Su - san - na fair some-time, some-time as-saul-ted was by two old men,
de - si-ring their de-light, which lewd in-tent they thought to bring to pass, to bring to pass, if not by
ten-der love, by force and might, *by force and might*, by force and might, to whom she said, *to whom she*
said, if I your suit de - ny, de - ny, you will me false-ly ac - cuse, and make me die,
and make me die. And if I grant to that which you re-quest, my chas-ti -
ty shall then de - flower - ed be, shall then de-flower-ed be, which is so dear to me, to me, that
I de - test my life, my life, if it be-reft - ed be from me, and ra-ther would I die -
of mine ac-cord, of mine ac - cord, *of mine ac - cord*, ten thou-sand times, *ten thou-*
- sand times, ten thou-sand times, than once, than once of-fend our Lord, of-fend our Lord.