

V. Can She Excuse My Wrongs?

John Dowland, *First Booke of Songes or Ayres*, 1597

The musical score is written in 3/2 time and consists of five parts: Cantus, Altus, Tenor, Bassus, and Lute. The Cantus part has two verses of lyrics. The Altus, Tenor, and Bassus parts have one verse of lyrics. The Lute part provides a harmonic accompaniment. The score is written in a system with five staves. The Cantus staff is in the soprano clef, the Altus in the alto clef, the Tenor in the tenor clef, the Bassus in the bass clef, and the Lute in the grand staff (treble and bass clefs). The lyrics are printed below the vocal staves.

Cantus

1. Can she ex - cuse my wrongs with Vir-tue's cloak? Shall I call her good when she proves un - kind?
Are those clear fires which va - nish in - to smoke? Must I praise the leaves where no fruit I find?

2. Was I so base, that I might not a - spire Un - to those high joys which she holds from me?
As they are high, so high is my de - sire: If she this de - ny, what can grant - ed be?

Altus

1. Can she ex - cuse my wrongs with Vir-tue's cloak? Shall I call her good when she proves un - kind?
Are those clear fires which va - nish in - to smoke? Must I praise the leaves where no fruit I find?

Tenor

1. Can she ex - cuse my wrongs with Vir-tue's cloak? Shall I call her good when she proves un - kind?
Are those clear fires which va - nish in - to smoke? Must I praise the leaves where no fruit I find?

Bassus

1. Can she ex - cuse, ex - cuse my wrongs with Vir-tue's cloak? Shall I call her good when she proves un - kind?
Are those clear fires, clear fires which va - nish in - to smoke? Must I praise the leaves where no fruit I find?

Lute

C

1. No, no; where sha-dows do for bo - dies stand, That may'st be ab - us'd if thy sight be dim.
Cold love is like to words writ - ten on sand, Or to bub - bles which on the wa - ter swim.

2. If she will yield to that which Rea - son is, It is Rea-son's will that Love should be just.
Dear, make me hap - py still by gran - ting this, Or cut off de - lays if that I die must.

A

1. No, no; where. sha-dows do, where sha-dows do for bo - dies stand, That may'st be ab - us'd, ab-us'd if thy sight be dim.
Cold love is like to words, is like to words writ-ten on sand, Or to bub - bles which on the wa - ter, wa - ter swim.

T

1. No, no, no; where sha-dows do for bo - dies, for bo-dies stand, That may'st be ab - us'd if thy sight, thy sight be dim.
Cold love, love is like to words, to words writ-ten on sand, Or to bub - bles which on the wa - ter, wa - ter swim.

B

1. No, no; where sha-dows do for bo - dies stand, That may'st be ab - us'd if thy sight be dim.
Cold love is like to words writ - ten on sand, Or to bub - bles which on the wa - ter swim.

L

1. Wilt thou be thus ab - us - ed still, See - ing that she will right thee ne - ver? If thou cans't not o'er -
2. Bet - ter a thou - sand times to die, Than for to live thus still tor - ment - ed: Dear, but re - mem - ber

1. Wilt thou be thus ab - us - ed still, See - ing that she will right thee ne - ver? If thou cans't not o'er -

1. Wilt thou be thus ab - us - ed still, See - ing that she will right thee ne - ver? If thou cans't not o'er -

The musical score consists of five staves. The top four staves are for voices: C (Soprano), A (Alto), T (Tenor), and B (Bass). The bottom staff is for the piano (L). The lyrics are written below the vocal staves. The score includes a repeat sign at the beginning of each staff and various musical notations such as notes, rests, and accidentals.

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C



come her will, Thy love will be thus fruit-less e - ver.
it was I Who for thysake did die con - tent - ed.

A



come her will, Thy love will be thus fruit - less e - ver.

T



8
come her will, Thy love will be thus fruit-less e - ver.

B



come her will, Thy love will be thus fruit-less e - ver.

L

