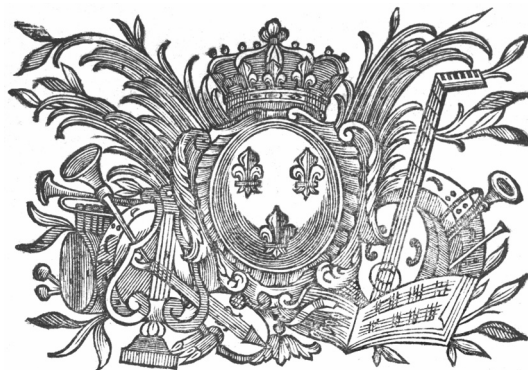


COLLECTION MUSICALE EN FORMAT NUMÉRIQUE
POLYPHONIES VOCALES DE LA RENAISSANCE

John Dowland (1563-1626)

Can she excuse my wrongs

à quatre voix



Nomenclature :

 *Cantus*

 *Altus*

 *Tenor*

 *Bassus*

Source :

*The First Booke of Songes or
Ayres of foure partes* (1597).

1. Can she excuse my wrongs with Virtue's cloak ?
Shall I call her good when she proves unkind ?
Are those clear fires which vanish into smoke ?
Must I Praise the leaves where no fruit I find ?
No, no; where shadows do for bodies stand,
Thou may'st be abus'd if thy sight be dim.
Cold love is like to words written on sand,
Or to bubbles which on the water swim.
Wilt thou be thus abused still,
Seeing that she will right thee never?
If thou canst not o'ercome her will,
Thy love will be be thus fruitless ever.

2. Was I so base, that I might not aspire
Unto those high joys which she holds from me ?
As they are high, so high is my desire,
If she this deny, what can granted be ?
If she will yield to that which reason is,
It is reason's wikk that love should be just.
Dear, make me happy still by granting this,
Or cut off delays if that I die must.
Better a thousand times to die,
Than for to love thus still tormented :
Dear, but remember it was I
Who for thy sake did die contented.

Cantus

Can she ex - cuse my wrongs with Vir-tue's cloak? Shall I call her
 Was I so base, that I light not as - pire Un - to those high

Altus

Can she ex - cuse my wrongs with Vir-tue's cloak? Shall I call her
 Was I so base, that I might not as - pire Un - to those high

Tenor

8 Can she ex - cuse my wrongs with Vir-tue's cloak? Shall I call her
 Was I so — base, that I might not as - pire Un - to those high

Bassus

Can she ex - cuse, — ex - cuse my wrongs with Vir-tue's cloak? Shall I call her
 Was I so base, — so base that I might not as - pire Un - to those high

6

good when she proves un - kind? Are those clear fires which va -
joys which she holds from me? As they are high, so high

good when she proves un - kind? Are those clear fires which va -
joys which she holds from me? As they are high, so high

8
good when she proves un - kind? Are those — clear fires which va -
joys which she holds from me? As they — are high, so high

good when she proves un - kind? Are those clear fires, — clear fires which
joys which she holds from me? As they are high, — so high, so

11

nish in - to smoke? Must I praise the leaves where no fruit I find?
is my de - sire, If she this de - ny, what can grant - ed be?

nish in - to smoke? Must I praise the leaves where no fruit I find?
is my de - sire, If she this de - ny, what can grant - ed be?

8 nish in - to smoke? Must I praise the leaves where no fruit I find?
is my de - sire, If she this de - ny, what can grant - ed be?

va - nish in - to smoke? Must I praise the leaves where no fruit I find?
high is my de - sire, If she this de - ny, what can gran - ed be?

17

No, no; where sha - dows do for bo - - - dies stand,
If she will yield to that which rea - - - son is,

No, no; where — sha - dows do, where sha - dows do for bo - dies stand,
If she will — yield to that, will yielts to that which rea - son is,

8 No, no, no; where — sha - dows do for bo - dies, for bo - dies stand,
If — she will — yield to that, will yield to that which rea - son is,

No, no; where — sha - dows do for bo - - - dies — stand,
If she will — yield to that which rea - - - son — is,

21

Thou may'st be ab - us'd if thy sight be dim. Cold love is
It is rea - son's will that love should be just. Dear; make me

Thou may'st be ab - us'd, ab - us'd _____ if thy sight be dim. Cold love is _____
It is rea - son's will _____ that love should be just. Dear; make me _____

8
 Thou may'st be ab - us'd if thy _____ sight, thy sight be _____ dim. Cold _____ love, love is
It is rea - son's will that love _____ should, love should be _____ just. Dear, _____ make me _____

Thou may'st be ab - us'd if thy sight be dim. Cold love _____ is
It is rea - son's will that love should be just. Dear; make _____ me

26

like to words writ - ten on sand, Or to bub - bles which on
hap - py still by grant - - - ing this, Or cut off de - lays if

like to words, is like to words writ - ten on sand, Or to bub - bles which on the ____
hap - py still by grant _____ ing this, Or cut off de - lays if that ____

8
 like to words, to words _____ writ - ten on sand, Or to bub - bles which on the ____
hap - py still by grant - - - - ing this, Or cut off de - lays if that ____

like to words writ - ten on ____ sand, Or to bub - bles which on
hap - py still by grant - - - ing ____ this, Or cut off de - lays if

31

the wa - ter swim. Wilt thou be thus ab - us - ed still,
that I die must. Bet - ter a thou - sand times to die,

— wa - ter, wa - ter swim. Wilt thou be thus ab - us - ed still, —
— I die, I die must. Bet - ter a thou - sand times to die, —

8 wa - ter, wa - ter — swim. Wilt thou be thus ab - us - ed
I die — must. Bet - ter a thou - sand times to

the wa - ter swim. Wilt thou be thus ab - us - ed still,
that I die must. Bet - ter a thou - sand times to die,

35

See - ing that she will right thee ne - ver? If thou canst not o'er -
 Than for to love thus still tor - men - ted: Dear, but re - mem - ber

See - ing that she will right thee ne - ver? If thou canst not o'er
 Than for to love thus still tor - men - ted: Dear, but re - - - mem - ber

8 still, See - ing that she will right thee ne - ver? If thou canst not o'er -
 die, Than for to love thus still tor - men - ted: Dear, but re - mem - ber

See - ing that she will right thee ne - ver? If thou canst not o'er
 Than for to love thus still tor - men - ted: Dear, but re - mem - ber

38

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

come it her was I Thy Who love for will thy be sake thus fruit - less e - ver. ed. con - tent - ed.

8 come it her was will, I Thy Who love for will thy be sake thus fruit - less e - ver. ed. con - tent - ed.

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