

The fair young virgin

William Byrd (c.1540-1623)

Cantus [Soprano] Altus [Alto] Quintus [Tenor] Tenor [Tenor] Bassus [Bass]

The fair young vir - gin is_

The fair young vir - gin, the fair young vir - gin

The fair young vir - gin_____ is like the

The fair young vir - gin,_____ the fair young vir -

The fair young vir - gin, *the fair young vir - gin,*

_____ like the_____ rose un - taint - - ed, in gar - den fair

is like the rose un - taint - - ed in gar - den fair while

rose, the rose un - taint - ed, in gar - den fair_____

-gin is like the rose un - taint - ed, un - taint - ed, in gar - den fair while_

is like the rose un - taint - - ed, in gar - den fair

while ten - der stalk doth bear_____ it,

ten - der stalk doth bear_____ it, sole_____ and un - touched with no

_____ while ten - der stalk doth bear it, sole_____ and un - touched, sole

_____ ten - der stalk doth_____ bear_____ it, sole_____ and all_____ un - touched,

while ten - der stalk doth bear_____ it, sole_____ and all_____ un - touched,

10

sole and un-touched, with no re-sort ac-quaint-ed, no
 re-sort ac-quaint-ed, with no re-sort ac-quaint-ed, no shep-herd,
 and un-touched with no re-sort ac-quaint-ed, no shep-herd, no shep-herd
 sole and un-touched, with no re-sort ac-quaint-ed, no shep-herd
 sole and un-touched with no re-sort ac-quaint-ed,

shep-herd, no shep-herd nor his flock doth once come near it,
 no shep-herd nor his flock, doth once come near it,
 nor his flock doth once come near it, once come near it, th'air
 -herd, no shep-herd nor his flock doth once come near it, th'air
 no shep-herd, no shep-herd nor his flock doth once come near it, th'air

th'air full of sweet-ness, the morn-ing fresh de-paint-ed
 th'air full of sweet-ness, the morn-ing fresh de-paint-ed
 full of sweet-ness, the morn-ing fresh de-paint-ed, the morn-ing fresh de-paint-ed
 full of sweet-ness, *th'air full of sweet-ness*, the morn-ing fresh de-paint-ed, de-paint-ed
 full of sweet-ness, of sweet-ness, the morn-ing fresh de-paint-ed

-paint - ed, the earth, the wa - ter, with all their
 - - ed, the earth the wa - ter, *the earth the wa - ter*, with all their
 -paint - ed, the earth, the wa - ter, the earth, the wa - ter, with all their
 - - ed, the earth the wa - ter, with all their fa-vours do cheer
 - - ed, the earth the wa - ter, *the earth the wa - ter*, with all their

fa - vours cheer it, dain - ty young
 fa - vours cheer it, dain - ty young gal - lants, young
 fa-vours cheer it, dain - ty young gal - lants, dain -
 it, do cheer it, do cheer it, dain - ty young gal - - lant,
 fa - vours do cheer it, dain - ty young gal - lants, *dain - ty young*

gal - lants, and la - dies most de - sir - ed,
 gal - lants and la - dies most de - sir - ed, de - light to
 -ty young gal - lants, and la - dies most de - sir - ed,
 dain - ty young gal - lants and la - dies most de - sir - ed, and la - dies most
 gal - lants and la - dies most de - sir - ed, de - sir - ed, de -

de - light to have there - with,
 have there - with, to have there - with,
 their heads and
 de - sir - ed, de - light to have there - with their
 -light to have there - with, their

30

de - light to have there - with their heads and breasts at - tir - ed,
 their heads and breasts, their heads and breasts at - tir - ed, dain - ty young gal -
 breasts at - tir - ed, dain - ty
 heads and breasts at - tir - ed, their heads and breasts at - tir - ed, dain - ty young
 heads and breasts, their heads and breasts at - tir - ed, dain - ty young gal -

dain - ty young gal - lants, and la - dies most de -
 - lants, young gal - lants, and la - dies most de - sir -
 young gal - lants, dain - ty young gal - lants, and la - dies most
 gal - lants, dain - ty young gal - lants and la - dies most de -
 - lants, dain - ty young gal - lants and la - dies most de - sir -

-sir - ed, de-light to have there - with,
 -ed, de - light to have there - with, to have there - with,
 de - sir - ed, their heads and
 -sir - ed, and la - dies most de - sir - ed, de - light to have there-with their
 -ed, de - sir - ed de - light to have there-with their

40
 de - light to have there - with their heads and breasts at - tir - ed.
 their heads and breasts, their heads and breasts at - tir - ed.
 breasts at - tir - ed.
 heads and breasts at - tir - ed, their heads and breasts at - tir - ed.
 heads and breasts, their heads and breasts at - tir - ed.

The second part

But not so soon, from green stock where_
 But not so soon, but not so soon, but not so soon, from green stock, from green
 But not so soon, not so soon, but not so soon, from green stock where it grow -
 But not so soon, but not so soon from green stock, from green stock
 But not so soon, but not so soon from green stock where it

— it grow - ed, the same is plucked, *the same is plucked*, and from
 stock where it grow - ed, the same is plucked, *the same is plucked*, and from
 -ed, where it grow - ed, the same is plucked and from the branch, the
 where it grow - - - ed, where it grow - ed, the same is plucked and
 grow - - - ed, the same is plucked, *the same is plucked*,

50
 — the branch re - mov - - ed, as lost is all from heaven
 — the branch re - mov - ed, re - mov - ed, as lost is all from heaven and earth,
 same is plucked and from the branch re - mov - ed, as lost is all from heaven and earth, from
 from the branch re - mov - ed, as lost is all from heaven and earth that
 — and from the branch re - mov - ed, as lost is all from heaven and earth, from heaven

— and earth that flow - - ed, both fa - vour
 as lost is all that flow - ed, both fa - vour grace and
 heaven and earth, that flow - ed, that flow - ed, both fa - vour grace and beau -
 flow - ed, from heaven and earth that flow - ed, both fa - vour grace and beau - ty, and
 and earth that flow - - ed, both fa - vour grace and beau - ty best be -

grace and beau - ty best be - lov - ed. The vir - gin fair, *the*
 beau - ty best be - lov - ed. The vir - gin fair, *the vir - gin fair*
 - ty, and beau - ty best be - lov - ed. The vir - gin fair, *the vir - gin fair,*
 beau - ty, best be - lov - ed. The vir - gin fair, *the vir - gin fair,*
 - lov - ed, and beau - ty best be - lov - ed. The vir - gin fair, *the vir - gin fair*

vir - gin fair, that hath the flower be - stow - - ed, which more than life
 that hath the flower be - stow - ed, the flower be - stow - - ed, which more —
 that hath the flower be - stow - - - ed, which
 that hath the flower be - stow - ed, the flower be - stow - ed, which more than life to
 that hath the flower, that hath the flower be - stow - - ed, which more than

60
 to guard it her be - hov - ed, los - eth her praise and is no more —
 — than life to guard it her be - hov - ed, los - eth her praise and is —
 more than life to guard, it her be - hov - ed, los -
 guard, to guard it her be - hov - ed, los - eth her praise, and is —
 life to guard it her be - hov - ed,

de - sir - ed, of those that late un - to her love as -
 no more de - sir - ed, of those that late un - to her love as - pi -
 - eth her praise and is no more de - sir - ed, los - eth her praise and is no more de -
 no more de - sir - ed, los - eth her praise, her praise, and is no more de - sir - ed,
 los - eth her praise and is no more de - sir - ed,

-pir - ed, of those that late un - to her love as - - - pi -
 -red, of those that late un - to her love as -
 -sir - ed, of those that late un - to her love as -
 of those that late un - to her, un - to her love as - pir - ed, un - to her love as -
 of those that late un - to her love, un - to her love as - -

70
 -red, los - eth her praise and is no more de - sir - ed, of those
 -pir - ed, los - eth her praise and is no more de - sir - ed, of those that
 -pir - ed, los - eth her praise, and is no more de - sir - ed,
 -pir - ed, los - eth her praise and is no more de - sir - ed, los - eth her praise, her
 -pir - ed, los - eth her praise

that late un - to her love as - pir - ed, of those that late
 late un - to her love as - pir - ed, of those that late,
 los - eth her praise and is no more de - sir - ed, of
 praise and is no more de - sir - ed, of those that late un - to her, un - to
 and is no more de - sir - ed, of those that late un - to
 un - to her love as - - - - - pir - ed.
 un - to her love as - pir - ed.
 those that late un - to her love as - pir - ed.
 her love as - pir - ed, un - to her love as - pir - ed.
 her love, un - to her love as - - - - - pir - ed.

Sources: N(icholas) Yonge, *Musica Transalpina* (London, 1588), nos.44-45 (Y).

William Byrd, *Psalmes, Sonets, & songs of sadnes and pietie* (London, 1588-1607), no.24 (*prima pars* only, as *La virginella*, with Italian text) (B).

Text: Ludovico Ariosto (1474-1535): *Orlando Furioso*, Canto I, stanzas 42-43, tr. ?Yonge

Y has been taken as primary source, with the considerably more carefully-printed multiple editions of B used as a corrective.

Extra naturals/sharps in B adopted in this edition are as follows: I.18.3, 19.1, 24.2; II.18.4, 19.1, 31.7, 40.7; V.18.2.

Other valid harmonic differences between Y and B are not noted here.

III.1-2: *vir gin* (scansion adopted from B)

V.17: single sharp/natural before 6 in Y; reading of entire bar from B

III.22.1-2: *favor*

II.22.4: natural in Y

IV.40.5: sharp/natural in Y

I.68: extra semiminim a' before 9

I.76.6: c' b', corrected by hand in one copy

Part of my complete edition of the published vocal works of William Byrd made available through the Choral Public Domain Library (<http://www.cpd.org>). For general editorial notes, please visit my user page at <http://www.cpd.org/wiki/index.php/User:DaveF>. All scores are made freely available according to the CPDL Licence for downloading, printing, performing and recording. No further conditions are or can be attached, although it's always good to hear of any performances. Please do not, without consulting me, make copies of my scores available through other websites – there's no need, first of all, as CPDL is always here, and secondly by doing so you put these editions beyond my control and so will miss out on any updates and revisions.