

Can she excuse my wrongs

First Booke of Songes, 1597, 1613

Piano part loosely based on lute tablature

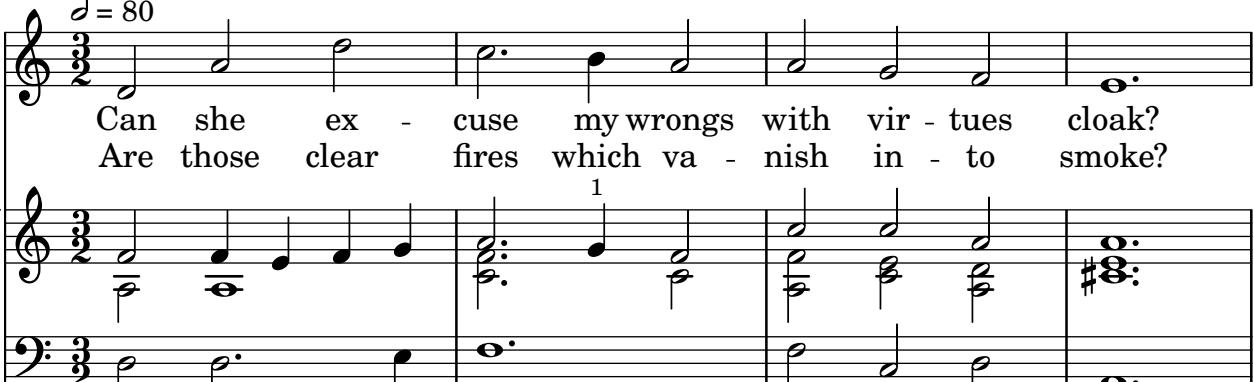
John Dowland

Voice

$\text{d} = 80$

Can she ex - cuse my wrongs with vir - tues cloak?
Are those clear fires which va - nish in - to smoke?

Piano



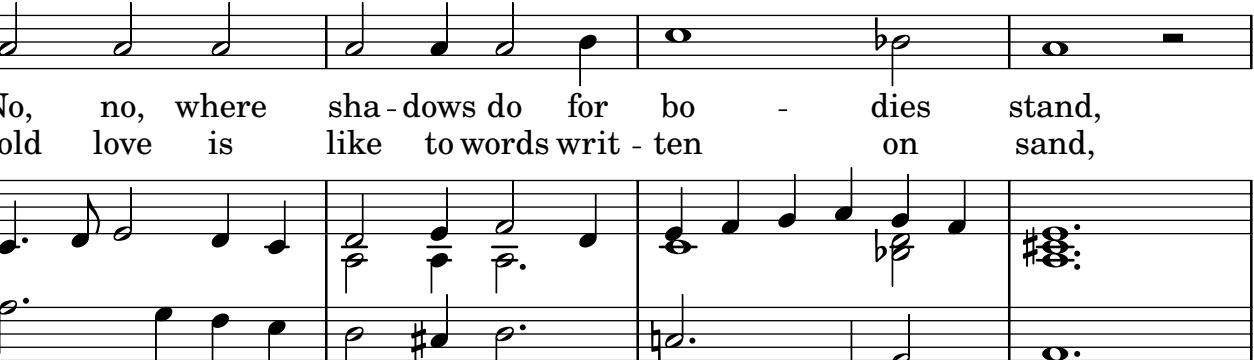
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Shall I call her good when she proves un - kind?
Must I praise the leaves where no fruit I find?



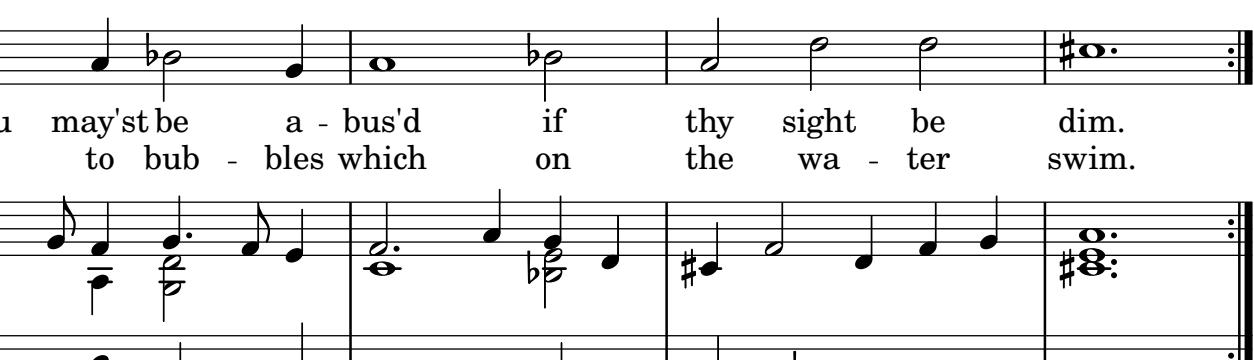
9

No, no, where sha - dows do for bo - dies stand,
Cold love is like to words writ - ten on sand,



13

thou may'st be a - bus'd if thy sight be dim.
or to bub - bles which on the wa - ter swim.



¹ Lute part has B \flat in 1597 version, amended to G in 1613 edition

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Wilt thou be thus a - bu - sed still, see - ing that she will right thee ne - ver

if thou canst not o'er-come her will, thy love will be thus fruitless e - ver.

Was I so base that I might not aspire
 Unto those high joyes 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 reasons will that love should be so just,
 Dear make me happy still by granting this,
 Or cut off delays if that die I must.
 Better a thousand times to die
 Than for to live thus still tormented,
 Dear but remember it was I
 Who for thy sake did die contented.