

Most clere of colour

A Song

Most clere of colour and rote of stedfastness,
With vertu connyng her maner is lede,
Which that passyth my mynde for to express
Of her bounte, beaute and womanhode;
The bryghtest myrrour and floure of goodlyhed,
Which that all men knowith, both more and less;
Thes vertues byn pryntyd in her doutless.

Edited by Humphrey Thompson.

Robert Fayrfax (1464-1521)

Sources: GB-Lbl Add. MS 5465 (Fayrfax MS).

Ligature and coloration brackets have been omitted to aid readability.

Musical score for the first system, featuring three vocal parts: Altus, Contratenor, and Tenor. Each part begins with a C-clef and a 'Most' ligature. The music is in 4/2 time. The lyrics are: Altus: Most clear of colour and root of; Contratenor: Most clear of colour and root of stedfastness,; Tenor: Most clear of

Musical score for the second system, featuring three vocal parts: Altus (A.), Contratenor (Ct.), and Bass (B.). The music is in 4/2 time. The lyrics are: A.: stedfastness,; Ct.: With virtue; B.: colour and root of stedfastness, With

8

A. Which that pas - seth my mind for to ex - press

Ct. cun - ning her man - ner is led, Which that pas - seth my mind for to ex - press

B. vir - tue cun - ning her man - ner is led, Which that pas - seth my mind for to ex - press

12

A. Of her boun - ty beau - ty and wo - man - hood.

Ct. Of her boun - ty beau - ty and wo - man - hood.

B. Of her boun - ty beau - ty and wo - man - hood.

16

A. The bright - est

Ct. The bright - est

B. The bright - est mir

20

A. And flow'r of good - li - head, Which that all men know'th, both more and

Ct. mir - ror and flow'r of good - li - head, Which that all men know'th, both

B. - - ror and flow're of good - li - head, Which that all men know'th, both

24

A. less; _____ These vir - tues been prin - ted in her doubt

Ct. more and less; _____ These vir - tues been prin - ted in her doubt-less. _____

B. more and less; _____ These vir - tues been prin - ted in

28

A. less. _____

Ct. _____

B. her doubt - less. _____