

When I Have Often Heard Young Maids

Song of the Nymph from *The Fairy Queen* (soprano)

Text by *Elkanah Settle* (1648-1724) [Br]

Set by *Henry Purcell* (1658/9-1695) [Br], Z. 629, #26

Nymph

When	I	have	often	heard	young	Maids	complaining
[mɛn]	a:i	hæv	'ɒf.ən	hɜd	jʊŋ	me:ɪdz	kəm.'ple:ɪn.ɪŋ]

That	when	Men	promise	most	they	most	deceive,
[ðæt]	mɛn	mɛn	'prɒm.ɪs	mo:ʊst	ðe:ɪ	mo:ʊst	dɪ.'sɪv]

The I thought none of them worthy of my gaining,
And what they Swore, resolv'd ne're to believe.

But when so humbly he made his Addresses,
With Looks so soft, and with Language so kind,
I thought it Sin to refuse his Caresses;
Nature o'ercame, and I soon chang'd my Mind.

Should he employ all his wit in deceiving,
Stretch his Invention, and artfully feign;
I find such Charms, such true joy in believing,
I'll have the Pleasure, let him have the Pain.
If he proves Perjur'd, I shall not be Cheated,
He may deceive himself, but never me;
'Tis what I look for, and shan't be defeated,
For I'll be as false and inconstant as he.

Alto and Chorus

A thousand thousand ways we'll find
To Entertain the Hours;
No Two shall e're be known so kind,
No Life so Blest as ours.

The entire text to this title with the complete
IPA transcription is available for download.

Thank you!

