

Once I Loved a Maiden Fair

Text by an anonymous poet [Am]

Set by *Horatio William Parker* (1863–1919) [Am]

Once I loved a maiden fair,
[wʌns a:I lʌvd ʌ 'me:i.dən feɪ]

And, believe me;
[ænd bi.'liv mi]

She was young, and among,
All our maids the sweetest,
Now I say,
Ah; well-a-day,
Brightest hopes are fleetest.

I the wedding ring had got,
Wedding clothes provided,
Sure the church would bind a knot
Ne'er to be divided;
Married we straight must be,
She her vows had plighted,
Vows, alas! as frail as glass;
All my hopes are blighted.

Maidens wav'ring and untrue,
Many a heart have broken;
Sweetest lips the world ev'er knew,
Falsest words have spoken.
Fare thee well, faithless girl,
I'll not sorrow for thee;
Once I held thee dear as pearl,
Now I do abhor thee.

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

Thank you!

