Susan

Words by John Gay
(from Black-Eyed Susan)

Voices

Oh Susan Susan love-ly dear my vows shall ev-er true
main, Let me kiss off this fall-ing tear we on-ly part to meet a-gain.

Changeas ye list ye winds my heart shall be The con-stant compass that shall point to thee.

2. Believe not what the landsmen say,
Who tempt with doubts thy constant mind,
They tell thee, sailors when away,
At every port a mistress find;
Yes, yes, believe them when they tell thee so,
For thou art present where so e'er I go.

3. The battle calls me from thine arms,
Let not my pretty Susan mourn,
The cannons war, yet save from harm,
William shall to his dear return,
Love turns aside the balls that round me fly,
Lest precious tears should drop from Susan's eye.

Transcribed by G. Dooley from manuscript in Jane Austen's hand in Jane Austen's House Museum collection (7:43). As the score is sometimes indistinct, some notes in the bass line are conjectural. The second and third verses are not present in this version of the MS, but are included in a copy at 7:10, which has a different bass line. NB: All grace notes should be appogiaturas.