



The chief difficulty in transcription is deciding how long a note should be allowed to sound. When the same string is plucked again, the first note obviously no longer sounds. But what about the following possibilities?

The image shows two musical transcriptions of a sequence of notes. On the left, a single melodic line contains a sequence of notes: a, r, e, a, r. This is followed by an equals sign. To the right of the equals sign are two alternative transcriptions. The first alternative transcription shows a single melodic line with notes a, r, e, a, r, and a longer note below it in the bass line. The second alternative transcription shows a single melodic line with notes a, r, e, a, r, and a longer note below it in the bass line, with the word "or" written between the two alternatives.

Obviously, a musical ear must be the judge of such problems.

Note that the Elizabethan handwriting here (probably that of Jane Pickering) writes the alphabet slightly differently from what we are accustomed to; here are the first several letters in order:

a b r d e f g h

N.B. the last note in m. 5 should be written as an "e".

This is a large, handwritten musical score consisting of multiple staves. The notation is dense and includes various symbols and letters. The title "The Maids in Consequence" is visible at the bottom right. The score appears to be a transcription of a piece of music, with the letters 'a', 'r', 'e', 'a', 'r' appearing frequently in the notation.