# It Was a Lover and His Lass

**Thomas Morely** 

Words by

## WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE

Arranged by

RUSSELL ROBINSON

SSA Voices a cappella



### Ranges:









### **About the Program**

This madrigal is a rare combination of a text by one of the greatest playwrights of all time, William Shakespeare, and music by one of the greatest musicians of the Renaissance period (generally considered the years 1450 to 1600), Thomas Morley. A madrigal is generally defined as an *a cappella* (i.e. no accompaniment) piece written in the Renaissance period. Morley is one of the biggest contributors to the madrigal repertoire. The text for this piece was originally written for Shakespeare's play *As You Like It*. Morley published the madrigal version of this text in 1600 in his *First Book of Ayres*. It is said that Morley and Shakespeare knew each other, as they both lived and worked as artists in London at the same time. Shakespeare was born in 1564 and died in 1616. Morley was born in 1557 and died in 1602.

As with most madrigals, *It Was a Lover and His Lass* goes back and forth between two styles. The verse, or verses of which three are included here, are flowing and should be phrased horizontally, whereas the "Hey nonino" sections are more bouncy, dance-like and vertical. Try to achieve the two distinct styles as you sing it. Also, try to utilize text accents when singing the words and phrases of the verses. This piece can be done with just the first verse, or the first and third verses, or all three verses. The text is a typical text of this time period about two lovers enjoying each other's company. The key has been lowered from the original key of G major to F major to allow for the richness of textures and ease of singing by women's voices.

Enjoy singing this fun madrigal!

—Russell Robinson

# It Was a Lover and His Lass

for SSA Voices a cappella\*

Words by William Shakespeare

### THOMAS MORLEY

(1557-1602)

Arranged by Russell Robinson



and

hey

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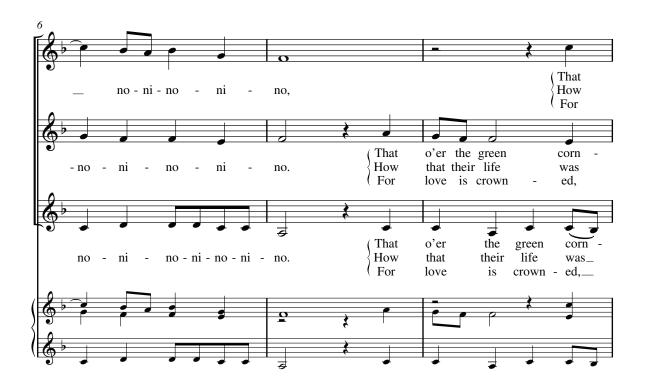
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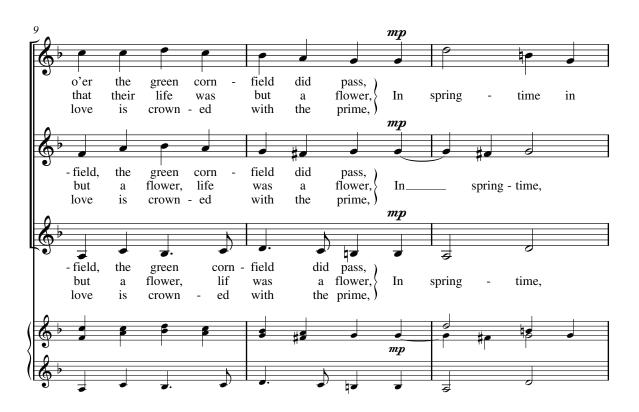
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<sup>\*</sup>Also available for Three-part Mixed Voices (CM8782).









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