

It Was a Lover and His Lass / Morely - arr Robinson / SSA *a cappella*

# It Was a Lover and His Lass

Thomas Morely

Words by

**WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE**

Arranged by

**RUSSELL ROBINSON**

SSA Voices *a cappella*

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## 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

Happily!  $\text{♩} = 60$

**Soprano 1** *mf*

1. It was a lov - er and his lass, }  
 2. This car - ol they be - gan that hour, } With a  
 3. And there - fore take the pre - sent time, }

**Soprano 2** *mf*

1. It was a lov - er and his lass, }  
 2. This car - ol they be - gan that hour, } With a  
 3. And there - fore take the pre - sent time, }

**Alto** *mf*

1. It was a lov - er and his lass, }  
 2. This car - ol they be - gan that hour, } With a  
 3. And there - fore take the pre - sent time, }

**Keyboard**  
 (for rehearsal only) *mf*

3

hey, and a ho, and a hey no - ni - no, and a hey \_\_\_\_\_

hey, and a ho and a hey no - ni - no, and a hey no - ni -

hey, and a ho, and a hey no - ni - no, and a hey, and a

\*Also available for Three-part Mixed Voices (CM8782).

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6

no - ni - no - ni - no, (That How For

- no - ni - no - ni - no. (That o'er the green corn - How that their life was For love is crown - ed,

no - ni - no - ni - no - ni - no. (That o'er the green corn - How that their life was For love is crown - ed, \_

9

*mp*  
o'er the green corn - field did pass, } In spring - time in  
love their life was but a flower, } prime, }

*mp*  
- field, the green corn - field did pass, } In spring - time,  
but a flower, life was a flower, }  
love is crown - ed with the prime, }

*mp*  
- field, the green corn - field did pass, } In spring - time,  
but a flower, lif was a flower, }  
love is crown - ed with the prime, }

*mp*

12 *mf*

spring - time in spring - time the on - ly pret - ty ring tim, When

in spring - time the on - ly pret - ty — ring time, *mf*

in spring - time, the on - ly pret - ty ring time, When

*mf*

16 *mf*

birds to sing, Hey ding-a-ding-a-ding, hey ding-a-ding-a-ding, hey

When birds do sing, ding-a-ding-a-ding, hey ding-a-ding-a-ding.

birds do — sing, hey, hey ding-a - ding-a-ding, Sing

19 *mp*

ding-a-ding-a ding, Sweet lov - ers love the spring in spring - time.

hey\_ ding-a ding, Sweet lov erslove the spring, sweet lov - ers love the

hey ding-a ding, Sweet lov - ers love the spring, sweet lov - ers love the

*mp*

23 *f*

In spring - time, the on - ly pret - ty ring time, When

spring, spring - time the on - ly pret - ty ring time,

spring, spring - time the on - ly pret - ty ring time, When

27

birds do sing, Hey ding - a - ding - a - ding, hey ding - a - ding - a - ding, hey

When birds do sing, ding - a - ding - a - ding, hey ding - a - ding - a - ding.

birds do sing, hey, hey ding - a - ding - a - ding, Sing

30 *rit. last time* *repeat ad. lib*

ding - a - ding - a - ding, Sweet lov - ers love the spring.

hey ding - a - ding, Sweet lov - ers love the spring. *rit. last time* *repeat ad. lib*

hey ding - a - ding, Sweet lov - ers love the spring. *rit. last time* *repeat ad. lib*

hey ding - a - ding, Sweet lov - ers love the spring. *rit. last time* *repeat ad. lib*



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