

This authentic three-part English madrigal was composed by Thomas Weelkes in 1608 and is perfect for concert or contest. Its performance is enjoyed by both the singers and the audience.

To enhance the meaning of these nonsense words, we find a story intertwined about a maypole dance celebrating spring. The maypole ceremony was a European tradition where beautiful ribbons were tied to the top of the pole and eight to sixteen people would dance intricate dances around the pole creating a beautiful weaving of the ribbons on the pole. The dancers in this song moved so fast that they theoretically “burned” the soles of their shoes and danced so long and so fast that even their joints were weary at the end. The second verse tells how much fun the dancers are having creating this beautiful pole for May Day.

Rick Weymuth

dedicated to Pam Smith Kelly and the Oxford Middle School 8th-Grade Choir,
Blue Valley School District, Overland Park, Kansas

HA HA! THIS WORLD DOTH PASS

for SAB voices, unaccompanied*

Words and Music by
THOMAS WEELKES (1576–1623)

Arranged by
RICHARD WEYMUTH

Playfully (♩ = 84 – 100)

f

SOPRANO

ha ha ha

ALTO

ha ha ha

BARITONE

ha ha ha

Playfully (♩ = 84 – 100)

ACCOMP. (rehearsal only)

f

3

ha ha ha ha ha ha. Ha

ha ha ha ha ha ha. Ha ha ha

ha ha ha ha ha. Ha ha ha

3

Performance time: approx. 1:38

*Available: SAB (D0729)

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5

mp

ha ha ha! This world doth pass. I

mp

ha! This world ____ doth pass. I

ha! This world doth pass.

5

mp

8

mp-f

mean to spend my shoe - sole to dance a - bout the

mp-f

mean to spend my shoe - sole to dance a - bout the

mp-f

To dance a - bout the

8

mp-f

11

May - pole. I will be blithe and brisk. Leap and

May - pole. I will be blithe and brisk, blithe and brisk.

May - pole. I will be blithe and brisk. Leap and

14

skip, hop and trip, turn a - bout in the rout, un-

Leap and skip, hop and trip, turn a - bout in the rout, un-

skip, hop and trip, turn a - bout in the rout, un - til