

It Was a Lover and His Lass

Music by

THOMAS MORLEY

Arranged by

RUSSELL ROBINSON

Words by

WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE

TB Voices a cappella with Optional Keyboard

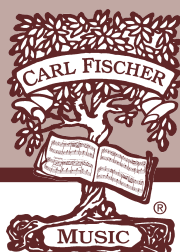
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Historical Information

This madrigal is a rare combination of a text by one of the greatest playwrights of all time, William Shakespeare (1564–1616), and music by Thomas Morley (1557–1603), one of the greatest musicians of the Renaissance period (approximately, 1450 to 1600). The text is from Shakespeare's play *As You Like It*. Morley, a prolific composer of the madrigal, published the madrigal version of this text in his *First Book of Ayres* (1600). It is said that Morley and Shakespeare knew each other, having lived and worked as artists in London at the same time.

As with most madrigals, *It Was a Lover and His Lass* vacillates between two distinct styles: the verses, which are flowing and should be phrased horizontally, and the “Hey nonino” sections, which are more dance-like, playful and should be vertically phrased.

The conductor has the option of performing one, two or all three verses. Try to utilize the text accents provided when singing this text about two lovers enjoying each other's company and to convey the playful nature of the “Hey nonino” section.

In arranging this piece for men's (boy's) voices, I have written an optional keyboard part that helps emphasize the parts and can add vitality and harmonies to this two-part voicing. 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. I suggest that you rehearse the piece with the keyboard part, then decide whether you want to sing it accompanied or a cappella.

Enjoy singing this fun madrigal!



Russell Robinson

Russell L. Robinson

Dr. Russell L. Robinson is a prolific composer, arranger, and author with over 250 publications including choral music, DVDs and books. He is Professor of Music and Area Head for Music Education at the University of Florida, where he has been on the faculty since 1984. He holds a Ph.D. and Masters degrees in music from the University of Miami and a Bachelor of music degree from Drury University in Springfield, Missouri. He is frequently in demand, has been a clinician, adjudicator, and conductor for workshops, all-state choirs, honor choirs, and festivals throughout the United States, Canada, Europe, Africa, Australia and the Far East.

It Was a Lover and His Lass

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for TB Voices with Optional Keyboard

Words by **WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE**

THOMAS MORLEY (1557–1602)

Arranged by Russell Robinson

Happily! $\text{♩} = 60$ *

Keyboard

mf

Tenor *mf*

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

Baritone *mf*

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

8

hey no - ni - no, and a hey no - ni - no-ni-no-ni - no. That How For

hey no, and a hey and a no - ni - no - ni - no. That How For

* If performing *a cappella*, begin on fourth beat of m. 4.

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o'er the green corn - field, the green corn - field did pass, *mp*
 that their life was but a flower, life was a flower, In
 love is crown - ed, love is crown - ed with the prime, *mp*

o'er the green corn field, the green corn - field did pass,
 that their life was but a flower, life was a flower, In
 love is crown - ed, love is crown - ed with the prime,

15

spring - time, in spring - time, the on -
 — spring - time in spring - time in spring - time the

18

ly — pret - ty ring time, When birds do sing, *mf*
 on - ly pret - ty ring time, When birds do sing, Hey *mf*

21

hey, hey ding - a - ding - a - ding, Sing hey ding - a - ding, Sweet *mp*

sing, ding - a - ding - a - ding, hey ding - a - ding - a - ding. hey — ding - a - ding, Sweet *mp*

24

lov - ers love the spring, sweet lov - ers love the

lov - ers love the spring in spring - time.

27

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

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

31

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

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

34

hey ding - a - ding, Sweet lov - ers love the spring. *
1. 2.
2. This
3. And

hey — ding - a - ding, Sweet lov - ers love the spring. *
1. 2.
2. This
3. And

37

[3. *rit. to end* **in 4** spring. Sing hey ding - a - ding, Sweet lov - ers love the spring.

[3. *rit. to end* **in 4** spring. Sing hey — ding - a - ding, Sweet lov - ers love the spring.

* Note: It is perfectly acceptable to do one, two or all three verses.

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ISBN 978-0-8258-9074-1



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