

Now is the month of Maying

n. 3 from *Of Thomas Morley the first booke of Balletts to five voyces, 1595*

Original English text

Now is the month of Maying,
When merry lads are playing. Fa la la.
Each with his bonny lasse,
upon the greeny grasse. Fa la la.

The Spring clad all in gladnesse,
Doth laugh at Winter's sadnesse, Fa la la.
And to the Bagpipes sound
The Nimphs tread out their ground. Fa la la.

Fye then! Why sit wee musing,
Youths sweet delight refusing? Fa la la.
Say, daintie Nimphs and speake,
Shall wee play barly breake? Fa la la.

Modern english text

Now is the month of Maying,
When merry lads are playing, Fa la la.
Each with his bonny lass,
Upon the greeny grass. Fa la la.

The Spring, clad all in gladness,
Doth laugh at Winter's sadness, Fa la la.
And to the bagpipe's sound
The nymphs tread out their ground. Fa la la.

Fie then! Why sit we musing,
Youth's sweet delight refusing? Fa la la.
Say, dainty nymphs, and speak,
Shall we play Barley-break? Fa la la.

Italian translation

*Adesso è il mese di maggio
quando gli allegri giovani si divertono, Fa la la.
ognuno con la sua bella ragazza,
sull'erba verdeggiante. Fa la la.*

*La Primavera, rivestita di gioia,
ride della tristezza dell'Inverno, Fa la la.
e al suono della cornamusa
le ninfe calpestanto il loro terreno. Fa la la.*

*Su allora! Perché ci sediamo a meditare,
rifiutando il dolce piacere della giovinezza? Fa la la.
Dite, delicate ninfe, ed esprimetevi,
Giochiamo a far all'amore? Fa la la.*

transcribed by
Leonardo Lollini

Thomas Morley
(1557 - 1602)

[♩ = 90 ca.]

CANTO

ALTO

QUINTO

TENORE

BASSO

1. Now is the month of May - ing, When mer - ry lads are
2. The Spring clad all in glad - nesse, Doth laugh at Win - ter's
3. Fye then! Why sit wee mus - ing, Youths sweet de-light re -

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play - ing.
sad - nesse, Fa la la la la la la la. Fa la la la la la la. 1. Now
-fus - ing? 2. The
3. Fye

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-fus - ing? 2. The
3. Fye

10 [2.]

1. Each with his bon - ny lasse, up - on the green - y grasse. Fa la
 2. And to the Bag - pips sound, the Nimphs tread out their ground. la
 3. Say, dain - tie Nimphs, and speake, shall wee play bar - ly breake?

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la la la. Fa la la la la la la la. la. Fa la la la. 1. Each la.
 2. And la.
 3. Say

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