

This sweet and merry month of May

William Byrd (c.1540-1623)

Cantus primus [Alto] This sweet and mer-ry, mer-ry month of May,

Cantus secundus [Tenor] This sweet and mer-ry, mer-ry month, and mer-ry mer-ry month of _____ May,

Tenor [Tenor] And mer-ry, mer-ry,

Bassus [Bass] And mer-ry, mer-ry

_____ this sweet and mer-ry, mer-ry month of _____ May, _____ of May

_____ and mer-ry, mer-ry month of _____ May, _____ and mer-ry, mer-ry month of

_____ mer-ry month of _____ May, _____ this sweet and mer-ry, mer-ry month of _____

_____ month of May, _____ this sweet _____ and mer-ry, mer-ry month of May,

¹⁰ While Na - ture wan - tons, wan - tons, wan - tons in _____ her Prime,

May, While Na - ture wan - tons, wan - tons, wan - tons in _____ her _____ Prime, And birds _____

May, While Na - ture wan - tons, wan - tons in her Prime, And birds do

While Na - ture wan - tons, wan - tons, wan - tons in _____ her _____ Prime,

_____ And birds do sing, _____ and birds do

_____ do sing, _____ and birds do sing, do sing, do sing, _____ do

_____ sing, _____ and birds do sing, do sing, and birds do sing, _____

And birds do sing, _____ and birds _____ do sing, and

40

- day, And greet E - li - za with a _____ rhyme, and greet, and

- li - day, for ho - li - day, And greet E - li - za, with _____ a rhyme, _____ and greet,

- li - day, And greet E - li - za, E - li - za, with a _____ rhyme, and

ho - li - day, And greet E - li - za, and greet,

50

greet E - li - za, E - li - za with a rhyme, with a rhyme, *with a rhyme*, a rhyme.

and greet E - li - za, E - li - za with _____ a rhyme, _____ with a rhyme, a rhyme.

greet E - li - za, E - li - za with a rhyme, with a rhyme, _____ with a rhyme.

and greet E - li - za, E - li - za with a rhyme, with a rhyme.

60

O, O _____ beau - te-ous Queen, O _____ beau -

O, O _____ beau - te-ous Queen, _____ O _____ beau -

O, O _____ beau - te-ous Queen, O _____ beau - te-ous

O, O _____ beau - te-ous Queen, O _____ beau - te-ous Queen

- te-ous Queen of se - cond Troy, Take well in worth, take

- te-ous Queen of se - cond Troy, of se - cond Troy, Take well in worth,

Queen of se - cond Troy, of se - cond Troy, Take well in worth,

of se - cond Troy, of se - cond Troy, Take well in worth,

70

well in worth a sim-ple toy, take well in worth a sim-ple toy, a sim-ple toy, a sim - ple toy,
 take well in worth a sim-ple toy, a sim-ple toy, take well in worth a sim-ple toy, a
 take well in worth a sim-ple toy, a sim - ple
 take well in worth a sim-ple toy, take well in worth a sim-ple toy, a sim-ple

80

a sim-ple toy, a sim-ple toy, a sim - ple, a sim-ple, a sim-ple, a
 sim - ple toy, a sim-ple toy, take well in worth a sim-ple, a sim-ple,
 toy, a sim - ple toy, take well in worth a sim-ple toy, take
 toy, take well in worth a sim-ple toy, a sim-ple toy, a sim-ple, a sim-ple,

sim - ple toy, a sim - ple toy, a
 sim - ple toy, take well in worth a sim - ple toy, a
 well in worth a sim - ple toy, take well in worth
 a sim - ple toy, take well in worth a sim - ple

sim - ple toy. toy. 1. 2.

sim - ple toy, a sim - ple toy. toy.

a sim - ple toy, a sim - ple toy. toy.

toy, a sim - ple toy. toy.

Sources: Thomas Watson, *The first sett, Of Italian Madrigalls Englished* (London, 1590), no.8 (W).
 William Byrd, *Psalmes, Songs, and Sonnets...* (London, 1611), no.9 (B).

Text: attrib. Thomas Watson (c.1557-92)

Edition B has been taken as primary source for this edition, although W prints more text and uses fewer repeat signs. Spelling and capitalisation are considerably more archaic in W. Other differences between the editions are as follows:

W: partbooks titled Cantus, Contratenor, Tenor, Bassus. Main *ts* ♩

II.15.1: no sharp

II.22.3-4: *do* ♩ *play* ♩

II.26.1-27: one text-repeat mark below passage

I.42: *za* ♩ *b'* with ♩ *a'* ♩ *g'*

IV.49.2: no sharp

B: I.24.4-25.5, II.24.3-25.5, III.24.1-25.3: one text-repeat mark under each passage

I, II, 29; III, IV, 28: *ts* ♩

All voices, 34: *ts* C (♩ in W)

II.40.3: W is especially careful with accidentals, with sharps above both preceding cs

Part of my complete edition of the published vocal works of William Byrd made available through the Choral Public Domain Library (<http://www.cpd.org>). For general editorial notes, please visit my user page at <http://www.cpd.org/wiki/index.php/User:DaveF>. All scores are made freely available according to the CPDL Licence for downloading, printing, performing and recording. No further conditions are or can be attached, although it's always good to hear of any performances. Please do not, without consulting me, make copies of my scores available through other websites – there's no need, first of all, as CPDL is always here, and secondly by doing so you put these editions beyond my control and so will miss out on any updates and revisions.