

16 APRIL IS IN MY MISTRESS' FACE

THOMAS MORLEY

April is in my mistress' face,
And July in her eyes hath place.
Within her bosom is September,
But in her heart a cold December.

Madrigals à 4 (1594), i

The word July should be stressed on the first syllable. Over-subtle attempts at vocal expression of the four seasons are clearly out of place in such a short and simple madrigal, yet a slight holding back on the melisma of 'September' and a more deliberate tempo (assisted by 'white' tone-colour) for the last line may serve to enhance the character of the performance as a whole. Morley probably took the idea from Vecchi's setting (1587) of Livio Celiano's poem *Nel vis'ha un vago Aprile*, where the first of nine verses presents a clear parallel.

First system of the musical score for four voices (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass). The key signature has one flat (B-flat). The Soprano part begins with the lyrics "A - pril is in my mis - tress' face, A - pril is". The Alto part begins with "A - pril is in my mis - tress' face,". The Tenor and Bass parts enter later in the system with "A - pril is".

Second system of the musical score. The Soprano part continues with "in my mis - tress' face, my mis - tress' — face, A - pril is". The Alto part continues with "A - pril is in my mis - tress' face, A - pril is". The Tenor part continues with "in my mis - tress' — face, A - pril is in my mis - tress'". The Bass part continues with "in my mis - tress' face, A - pril is in my mis - tress'". A fermata is placed over the Soprano's melisma "mis - tress' —".

⑥

10

in my mis - tress' face, And Ju - ly in her eyes hath

in my mis - tress' face, And Ju - ly in her eyes hath

face, my mis - tress' face,

face, my mis - tress' face,

place, And Ju - ly in her eyes hath

place, And Ju - ly

And Ju - ly in her eyes hath

And Ju - ly in her eyes hath

15

eyes, her eyes hath place. With - in her bo -

in her eyes, her eyes hath place. With - in her bo -

place, her eyes hath place. With - in her bo -

place, her eyes hath place.

20

- som, with - in her bo - som is Sep - tem

- som, with - in her bo - som is Sep - tem

- som, with - in her bo - som is Sep - tem

With - in her bo - som is Sep - tem

25

-ber, But in her heart, but in her heart, her

-ber, But in her heart, her

-ber, But in her heart, her heart,

-ber, But in her heart, but in her

30

heart, a cold De - cem - - - - - ber;

heart, a cold De - cem - - - - - ber; But in her

a cold De - cem - - - - - ber; But

heart, a cold De - cem - - - - - ber;

But in her heart, but in her

heart, her heart, but in her

in her heart, but in her

But in her heart,

35

heart, her heart, a cold De - cem - - - - - ber.

heart, her heart, a cold De - cem - - - - - ber.

heart, a cold De - cem - - - - - ber.

but in her heart, a cold De - cem - - - - - ber.