

THOMAS MORLEY

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

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

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

Balletts à 5 (1595), iii

One of the most famous of Morley's balletts, this was also arranged for instrumental consort in 1609 by Rosseter (*Lessons for Consort*). In the Italian edition of his 1595 volume, Morley borrowed a text from Vecchi's *Selva di Faria Ricreatione* – 'So ben mi c'ha bon tempo'. But the English version, for more than one reason, is likely to retain its supremacy as long as the art of madrigal singing stays alive.

S

1. Now is the month of may - ing, When mer - ry lads are
 2. The Spring, clad all in glad - ness, Doth laugh at win - ter's
 3. Fie then! why sit we mus - ing, Youth's sweet de-light re -

A

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play - ing,
sad - ness, Fa la la la la la la la, fa la la la la la
- fus - ing?

play - ing,
sad - ness, Fa la la la la la la, fa la la, fa la la la la la
- fus - ing?

play - ing,
sad - ness, Fa la la la la la la, fa la la la la la la
- fus - ing?

play - ing,
sad - ness, Fa la la la la la la, fa la la la la la la
- fus - ing?

play - ing,
sad - ness, Fa la la la la la la, fa la la la la la la
- fus - ing?

1. Now la. 2. The la. 3. Fie 1. Each la. 2. And la. 3. Say, with his bon - ny lass sound Up - to the bag - pipe's The dain - ty nymphs, and Shall speak Shall

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- on the green - y grass.
 nymphs tread out their ground. Fa la la la la,
 we play har - ley break?

- on the green - y grass.
 nymphs tread out their ground. Fa la la la la, fa la
 we play har - ley break?

- on the green - y grass.
 nymphs tread out their ground. Fa-la-la- la la, fa la la
 we play har - ley break?

- on the green - y grass.
 nymphs tread out their ground. Fa la la la la,
 we play har - ley break?

- on the green - y grass.
 nymphs tread out their ground. Fa la la la la, fa la la la la
 we play har - ley break?

1 2

fa la la la la la la la, fa la la la. 1. Each
 2. And la.
 3. Say,

la la la, fa la la la la la. 1. Each
 2. And la.
 3. Say,

la, fa la la la la, fa la la la. 1. Each
 2. And la.
 3. Say,

— la la la la la, fa la. 1. Each
 2. And la.
 3. Say,

la, fa la la la la la. 1. Each
 2. And la.
 3. Say,

9