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# NOW IS THE GENTLE SEASON; THE FIELDS ABROAD

THOMAS MORLEY

Now is the gentle season freshly flowering,  
To sing and play and dance while May endureth;  
And woo and wed, that sweet delight procureth.

The fields abroad with spangled flowers are gilded,  
The meads are mantled, and closes;  
In may each bush arrayed, and sweet wild roses.  
The nightingale her bower hath gaily builded,  
And full of kindly lust and love's inspiring,  
'I love, I love,' she sings, hark, her mate desiring.

*Madrigals à 4* (1594), ix-x

would be a pity to force the tempo of this pleasant and leisurely pastoral: the requisite life and lightness should come from a springy phrasing closely allied to the sense of the words and the pulse of the music. A long pause between the two parts is not necessary, for the verse forms an entity even though the two musical halves offer distinct evidence of contrasted styles.

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Now is the gen - tle sea - son fresh - ly flow'r -  
 Now is the gen - tle sea - son fresh - ly flow'r -  
 Now is the gen - tle sea - son fresh - ly flow'r -  
 Now is the gen - tle sea - son fresh - ly flow'r -

- ing, To sing and play and dance while May  
 - ing, To sing and play and dance while May en - dur -  
 - ing, To  
 - ing,

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en - dur - - eth, while May en - dur - - -  
 - eth, while May en - dur - eth, to sing and play and  
 sing and play and dance while May, while May en - dur - -  
 To sing and play and

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- eth, while May en - dur - - eth,  
 dance while May en - dur - - eth, to sing and play and  
 eth, while May en - dur - - eth, to sing and play and dance while  
 dance while May en - dur - - eth,

to sing and play and dance while May en -  
 dance while May en - dur - - eth, to sing and play and  
 May en - dur - - eth, to sing and play and dance  
 to sing and play and

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- dur - - eth, while May en - dur - - eth; And woo and wed  
 dance while May en - dur - - eth; And  
 while May en - dur - - eth; And woo and wed  
 dance while May en - dur - - eth; And woo and wed

too, and woo and wed too, and  
 woo and wed too, and wed too,  
 too, and woo and wed too, and woo and  
 too, and woo and

woo and wed too, and woo and wed  
 and woo and wed too, and woo and wed  
 wed too, and woo and wed too, and  
 wed too,

too, and woo and wed, and woo and wed too, and  
 too, and woo and wed, and wed too, and  
 woo and wed too, and woo and wed, too, and  
 and woo and wed too, and wed too, and

woo and wed, that sweet de - light pro - cur - - - eth.  
 woo and wed, that sweet de - light pro - cur - eth.  
 woo and wed, that sweet de - light pro - cur - - - eth.  
 woo and wed, that sweet de - light pro - cur - - - eth.

The fields a - broad with spang - led flowers are

The fields a - broad with spang - led flowers

gild - ed, the

are gild - ed, with spang - led flowers

The fields a - broad with spang - led flowers are

The fields a - broad with spang -

fields a - broad with spang - led flowers are

are gild - ed, the fields with spang - led flowers

gild - ed, the fields a - broad with spang - led

- led flowers

gild - ed, with spang - led flowers are gild -

are gild - ed, with spang - led flowers are

flowers are gild - ed, with spang - led flowers are

the fields a - broad with spang - led flowers are

ed, The meads are mant - led, the meads are  
gild - ed, The meads are mant - led, the meads are  
gild - ed, The meads are

mant - led, the meads are mant - led,  
mant - led, the meads are mant - led, the meads are  
mant - led, the meads are mant - led, the meads are  
mant - led, the meads are

the meads are mant - led, and clos - es; In  
mant - led, the meads are mant - led, and clos - es; In  
mant - led, the meads are mant - led, and clos - es; In  
mant - led, the meads are mant - led, and clos - es; In

may each bush ar - ray - ed, and sweet, and  
In may each bush ar - ray - ed, and  
may each bush ar - ray - ed, and  
may each bush ar - ray - ed, and sweet wild

sweet wild ros - es, and sweet wild ros - es. The  
 sweet wild ros - es, and sweet wild ros - es.  
 sweet wild ros - es, and sweet wild ros - es.  
 ros - es, and sweet wild ros - es.

night - in - gale her bower hath gai - ly.  
 The night - in - gale her bower hath gai - ly  
 The night - in - gale her bower hath gai - ly,  
 night - in - gale her bower hath gai - ly,  
 night - in - gale her bower hath gai - ly.

ly, build - ed, the night - in - gale her  
 build - ed, the night - in - gale her bower hath gai -  
 ly build - ed, the night - in - gale her bower,  
 The night - in - gale her bower hath

bower hath gai - ly, hath gai - ly build - ed, And  
 - ly build - ed, hath gai - ly build - ed, And  
 her bower hath gai - ly, gai - ly build - ed, And  
 gai - ly, hath gai - ly build - ed.

full of kind - ly lust, and love's in - spir - ing, 'I  
 full of kind - ly lust, and love's in - spir - ing, 'I  
 full of kind - ly lust, and love's in - spir - ing, 'I  
 and love's in - spir - ing, 'I

love, I love, I love, I love, I love, I love, I love,' she  
 love, I love, I love, I love, I love, I love, I love,' she  
 love, I love, I love, I love, I love, I love, I love,' she  
 love, I love, I love, I love, I love, I love, I love,' she

sings, hark: 'I love, I love,' she sings, hark: her  
 sings, hark: 'I love, I love,' she sings, hark: her  
 sings, hark: 'I love, I love,' she sings, hark: her  
 sings, hark: 'I love, I love,' she sings, hark: her

mate de - sir - - ing; and - ing.  
 mate de - sir - - ing; and - ing.  
 mate de - sir - - ing; and - ing.  
 mate de - sir - - ing; and - ing;