

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.

[adrigals 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.

The musical score consists of eight staves of music. The top four staves are soprano voices, and the bottom four staves are basso continuo. The music is in common time, with a key signature of one sharp (F#). The vocal parts are written in treble clef, and the continuo part is in bass clef. The lyrics are written below the notes. The score is divided into two sections by a vertical bar line. The first section ends with a repeat sign and a double bar line, followed by a measure of rest. The second section begins with a single bar line and continues with the lyrics 'ing, To sing and play and dance while May'. The continuo part includes a basso continuo staff with a bassoon-like line and a harpsichord-like line, along with a basso continuo staff with a bassoon-like line and a harpsichord-like line.

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,

10
 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

15
 - 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

20
 - 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 woo and wed, too, and

35
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
 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 - 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;
 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

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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.

75

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,

80

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

85

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

90

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

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1 2

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