

# It was a lover and his lass

Thomas Morley  
*The First Booke of Ayres or Little Short Songs* (London 1600), No. VI  
Transcribed and edited by Christopher Baum

Cantus

For the Base Viole

It was a lo - ver and his lass, With a hey, with a ho, and a  
Be - tween the a - cres of the rye,  
This ca - rol they be - gan that hour,  
Then pret - ty lo - vers take the time,

|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| a | a | a | c | a | c | a | f |
| a | a | e | e | d | c | d | f |
| c | d | c | a | a | c | d | f |
| c | c | b | c | c | c | a | a |
| c | c | c | e | c | c | a | a |
| a | c | e | c | c | c | e | c |

Note values original. Dashed barlines are editorial; solid barlines are from the Lute/Cantus part (the Bass Viol part, as usual for the period, has no barlines). The underlay of stanzas 2-4 is editorial. Time signs in the tablature are reproduced wherever they appear in the source, even when redundant.

It should be noted that the title page of Morley's book describes its contents as "Ayres or Little Short Songs, to Sing and Play to the Lute, with the Base Viole". This suggests that Morley intended both instruments to be used, and did not (unlike some of his contemporaries) regard the bass viol as an alternative to the lute.

## It was a lover and his lass

5

hey non-ny no, and a hey \_\_\_\_\_ non-ny non - ny no, That  
These  
How  
For

Figured Bass: *e c a c e f h f e c a a a e c a a a*  
*c a f a e a c e a a a a e*  
*a f f c f d c c b c d*  
*e a h a c a c a c c c*  
*a a c e a c a a*

10

o'er the green corn - fields did pass In spring - time, in spring - time, in spring - time, the on - ly pret - ty  
 pret - ty coun - try fools would lie,  
 that a life was but a flower,  
 love is crown - ed with the prime,

Figured Bass: *a e f e c b c c c b c a e f a f e c a*  
*a f f f c a c c c c c e a f f d d a*  
*c c c a e d c a f f h a c*  
*c c a e e e c c a a c e*  
*a c c c a c a*

16

ring - time, When birds do sing hey ding a ding a ding, hey ding a ding a ding, hey

*a a a c a a a a a a a f*  
*a e a a a e a a d c a d c a d*  
*a c c b c c c a c d*  
*c a c a*

20

ding a ding a ding, Sweet lo - vers love the spring, In spring - time, in spring - time, the

*f e c a c c a a a a a a a a*  
*f c e c c a a a e a a a e a a*  
*f d c a a d c c c b c c c*  
*a c e c c a a a*

25

on - ly pret - ty ring - time, When birds do sing hey ding a ding a ding, hey

*f* *e* *c* *a* *a* *a* *a* *c* *a* *a* *a* *e* *a* *a* *d*

*f* *f* *c* *a* *a* *e* *a* *a* *c* *a* *c* *d* *d* *c* *a* *d*

*a* *c* *e* *a* *c* *b* *c* *c* *c* *b* *c* *c* *c* *a* *c* *c*

*a* *a* *d* *c* *a* *f* *f* *e* *c* *a* *e* *c* *c* *a* *a* *a* *e* *a*

*c* *a* *d* *d* *c* *a* *d* *f* *c* *e* *c* *c* *a* *a* *a* *e* *d* *a*

*a* *a* *c* *c* *e* *c* *c* *a* *c* *a*

(1)

29

ding a ding a ding, hey ding a ding a ding, Sweet lo - vers love the spring.

*a* *a* *d* *c* *a* *f* *f* *e* *c* *a* *e* *c* *c* *a* *a* *a* *e* *a*

*c* *a* *d* *d* *c* *a* *d* *f* *c* *e* *c* *c* *a* *a* *a* *e* *d* *a*

*a* *a* *c* *c* *e* *c* *c* *a* *c* *a*

*a* *a* *d* *d* *c* *a* *d* *f* *c* *e* *c* *c* *a* *a* *a* *e* *d* *a*

*a* *a* *c* *c* *e* *c* *c* *a* *c* *a*

(1) cf. bar 18