

This sweet and merry month of May

William Byrd (c.1540-1623)

Cantus primus [Alto] This sweet and mer-ry, mer-ry month of May,

Cantus secundus [Tenor] This sweet and mer-ry, mer-ry month, and mer-ry mer-ry month of _____ May,

Tenor [Tenor] And mer-ry, mer-ry,

Bassus [Bass] And mer-ry, mer-ry

_____ this sweet and mer-ry, mer-ry month of _____ May, _____ of May

_____ and mer-ry, mer-ry month of _____ May, _____ and mer-ry, mer-ry month of

_____ mer-ry month of _____ May, _____ this sweet and mer-ry, mer-ry month of _____

_____ month of May, _____ this sweet _____ and mer-ry, mer-ry month of May,

¹⁰ While Na - ture wan - tons, wan - tons, wan - tons in _____ her Prime,

May, While Na - ture wan - tons, wan - tons, wan - tons in _____ her _____ Prime, And birds _____

May, While Na - ture wan - tons, wan - tons in her Prime, And birds do

While Na - ture wan - tons, wan - tons, wan - tons in _____ her _____ Prime,

_____ And birds do sing, _____ and birds do

_____ do sing, _____ and birds do sing, do sing, do sing, _____ do

_____ sing, _____ and birds do sing, do sing, and birds do sing, _____

And birds do sing, _____ and birds _____ do sing, and

40

- day, And greet E - li - za with a _____ rhyme, and greet, and

- li - day, for ho - li - day, And greet E - li - za, with _____ a rhyme, _____ and greet,

- li - day, And greet E - li - za, E - li - za, with a _____ rhyme, and

ho - li - day, And greet E - li - za, and greet,

50

greet E - li - za, E - li - za with a rhyme, with a rhyme, *with a rhyme*, a rhyme.

and greet E - li - za, E - li - za with _____ a rhyme, _____ with a rhyme, a rhyme.

greet E - li - za, E - li - za with a rhyme, with a rhyme, _____ with a rhyme.

and greet E - li - za, E - li - za with a rhyme, with a rhyme.

60

O, O _____ beau - te-ous Queen, O _____ beau -

O, O _____ beau - te-ous Queen, _____ O _____ beau -

O, O _____ beau - te-ous Queen, O _____ beau - te-ous

O, O _____ beau - te-ous Queen, O _____ beau - te-ous Queen

- te-ous Queen of se - cond Troy, Take well in worth, take

- te-ous Queen of se - cond Troy, of se - cond Troy, Take well in worth,

Queen of se - cond Troy, of se - cond Troy, Take well in worth,

of se - cond Troy, of se - cond Troy, Take well in worth,

70

well in worth a sim-ple toy, take well in worth a sim-ple toy, a sim-ple toy, a sim - ple toy,
 take well in worth a sim-ple toy, a sim-ple toy, take well in worth a sim-ple toy, a
 take well in worth a sim-ple toy, a sim - ple
 take well in worth a sim-ple toy, take well in worth a sim-ple toy, a sim-ple

80

a sim-ple toy, a sim-ple toy, a sim - ple, a sim-ple, a sim-ple, a
 sim - ple toy, a sim-ple toy, take well in worth a sim-ple, a sim-ple,
 toy, a sim - ple toy, take well in worth a sim-ple toy, take
 toy, take well in worth a sim-ple toy, a sim-ple toy, a sim-ple, a sim-ple,

sim - ple toy, a sim - ple toy, a
 sim - ple toy, take well in worth a sim - ple toy, a
 well in worth a sim - ple toy, take well in worth
 a sim - ple toy, take well in worth a sim - ple

sim - ple toy. toy. a sim - ple toy. toy. a sim - ple toy. toy. toy, a sim - ple toy. toy.

Sources: Thomas Watson, *The first sett, Of Italian Madrigalls Englished* (London, 1590), no.8 (W).
 William Byrd, *Psalmes, Songs, and Sonnets...* (London, 1611), no.9 (B).

Text: attrib. Thomas Watson (c.1557-92)

Edition B has been taken as primary source for this edition, although W prints more text and uses fewer repeat signs. Spelling and capitalisation are considerably more archaic in W. Other differences between the editions are as follows:

W: partbooks titled Cantus, Contratenor, Tenor, Bassus. Main *ts* ♩

II.15.1: no sharp

II.22.3-4: *do* ♩ *play* ♩

II.26.1-27: one text-repeat mark below passage

I.42: *za* ♩ *b'* with ♩ *a'* ♩ *g'*

IV.49.2: no sharp

B: I.24.4-25.5, II.24.3-25.5, III.24.1-25.3: one text-repeat mark under each passage

I, II, 29; III, IV, 28: *ts* ♩

All voices, 34: *ts* C (♩ in W)

II.40.3: W is especially careful with accidentals, with sharps above both preceding cs

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