

Thomas Morley, *It was lover and his lass*  
*(The First Booke of Ayres, 1600, no. 6)*

Song sung in Wm Shakespeare,  
*As you like it*, Act 5, scene 3

**Voice**

It was a lov - er and his lass, with a

**For the Bass Viol**

**Lute**

*Editorial transcription of tablature*

hey, with a ho, and a hey no-nie no, and a hey no-nie, no-nie

Thomas Morley, *It was lover and his lass, 2*

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no. That o're the green corn - fields did pass, in

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

15

spring - time, in spring - time, in spring - time, the on - ly pret - ty

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

Thomas Morley, *It was lover and his lass*, 3

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

Tablature for the first system:

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

20 ding a ding a ding, sweet lov - ers love the spring, in spring - time, in spring -

Tablature for the second system:

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

**Thomas Morley, *It was lover and his lass*, 4**

[illegible]

30

ding a ding a ding, hey ding a ding a ding, sweet lov - ers love the spring.

Figured bass notation:

First system: **a** **a** **a** **f** **f** **e** **c** **a** **c** **c** **a** **a** **a** **a** **c**

Second system: **c** **a** **d** **d** **c** **a** **d** **f** **c** **c** **a** **a** **a** **e** **a**

Third system: **a** **a** **d** **d** **c** **a** **d** **f** **c** **c** **a** **a** **a** **e** **a**

Fourth system: **a** **a** **d** **d** **c** **a** **d** **f** **c** **c** **a** **a** **a** **e** **a**

Keyboard reduction notation:

First system: **a** **a** **a** **f** **f** **e** **c** **a** **c** **c** **a** **a** **a** **a** **c**

Second system: **c** **a** **d** **d** **c** **a** **d** **f** **c** **c** **a** **a** **a** **e** **a**

Third system: **a** **a** **d** **d** **c** **a** **d** **f** **c** **c** **a** **a** **a** **e** **a**

Fourth system: **a** **a** **d** **d** **c** **a** **d** **f** **c** **c** **a** **a** **a** **e** **a**

2. Between the acres of the rye,  
With a hey, with a ho, and a hey nonie no,  
These pretty country fools would lie,  
In spring-time, the only pretty ring-time,  
When birds do sing, hey ding a ding a ding,  
Sweet lovers love the spring.
  
3. This carol they began that hour,  
With a hey, with a ho, and a hey nonie no,  
How that a life was but a flower,  
In spring-time, the only pretty ring-time,  
When birds do sing, hey ding a ding a ding,  
Sweet lovers love the spring.
  
4. Then pretty lovers take the time,  
With a hey, with a ho, and a hey nonie no,  
For love is crowned with the prime,  
In spring-time, the only pretty ring-time,  
When birds do sing, hey ding a ding a ding,  
Sweet lovers love the spring.

[Concordance of the music: Edinburgh, National Library of Scotland, Advocate's Library MS 5.2.14, fol. 18–18v, treble voice part only. The music and lyrics are essentially identical to those in *The First Booke of Ayres*, 1600.]



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