

(Original a whole tone higher)

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 Virole

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,

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

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.

The lute tablature has been adapted by the editor to the new key, adhering as closely as possible to the content of the original.

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 Virole". 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.

16

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

20

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

It was a lover and his lass

25

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

Figured Bass Notation (Measures 25-28):

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

Dynamic markings: *a*, *a* (1)

29

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

Figured Bass Notation (Measures 29-32):

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

Dynamic markings: *f*, *a*