

It Was a Lover and His Lass

Text by *William Shakespeare* (1564-1616) [Br]

Set by *Dudley Buck* (1839-1909) [Am], *Spring Song*, op. 76, #2; *Geoffrey Bush* (1920-1998) [Br]; *Rebecca Clarke* (1886-1979) [Br], from *Three Old English Songs*, #1; *Henry Clough-Leigher* (1874-1956) [Am]; *Frederick Delius* (1862-1934) [Br], from *Four Old English Lyrics*, #4; *Madeleine Dring* (1923-1977) [Br]; *Gerald Finzi* (1901-1956) [Br], from *Let Us Garlands Bring*, op. 18, #5; *Arthur Foote* (1853-1937) [Am], op. 10, #1; *John Linton Gardner* (1917-) [Br], from *Hebdomade*, op. 150, #7; *Lord Mervyn Horder*, (1910-1998) [Br], from *Four Shakespeare Duets*, #1; *J. Frederick Keel* (1871-1954) [Br]; *Betty Jackson King* (1928-1994) [Br], *In the Springtime*; *Erich Korngold* (1897-1957) [Gr], *When Birds Do Sing*, from *Four Shakespeare Songs*, op. 31, #4; *Ernest John Moeran* (1894-1950) [Br], *The Lover and His Lass*, from *Four Shakespeare Songs*, R. 76, #1; *Thomas Morley* (1557-1602) [Br]; *Roger Quilter* (1877-1953) [Br], op. 23, #3; *Peter Warlock* (1894-1930) [Br], *Pretty Ring Time*

It was a lover and his lass,
[ɪt wəz ʌ 'lʌv.ə ænd hɪz læs]

With a hey, and a ho, and a hey nonino
[wɪð ʌ he:ɪ ænd ʌ ho:ʊ ænd ʌ he:ɪ 'nɑn.i.no:ʊ]

That o'er the green corn-field (cornfields) did pass.
In the spring time, the only pretty ring time,
When birds do sing, hey ding a ding a ding;
Sweet lovers love the spring.

Between the acres of the rye,
With a hey, and a ho, and a hey nonino,
These pretty country folks (folk) would lie,
In the spring time, the only pretty ring time,
When birds do sing, hey ding a ding a ding;
Sweet lovers love the spring.

This carol they began that hour,
With a hey, and a ho, and a hey nonino,
How that life (a life) was but a flower...

The entire text to this title with the complete
IPA transcription is available for download.

Thank you!

