



Shakespeare Songs
No. 11

**It was a lover
and his lass**

**George A. Macfarren
(1813-1887)**

Sir George Alexander Macfarren (1813-1887) was born in London. From early youth, he suffered from poor health and weak eyesight. His eyesight continually deteriorated until he became totally blind in 1860. However, his blindness had little effect on his productivity. Macfarren began to study music when he was fourteen and, at sixteen, entered the Royal Academy of Music. Because of his eyesight, he abandoned performance and concentrated on composition. He later taught at the Academy, eventually becoming a principal. He was also appointed professor of music at Cambridge University in 1875. He was conductor at Covent Garden, London; founder the Handel Society; program note writer for the Philharmonic Society; and editor of *Handel and Purcell*. He wrote 18 operas, 13 oratorios and cantatas, 9 symphonies, and 162 songs. He was active as writer of part-songs, literature for the many amateur choirs appearing throughout the country. He was knighted in 1883 on the same day as Arthur Sullivan and George Grove. His brother Walter Macfarren (1826-1905) was a pianist, composer and professor of the Royal Academy.

It was a lover and his lass,
With a hey, and a ho, and a hey nonino,
That o'er the green cornfields did pass
In spring time,
The only pretty ring time,
When birds do sing,
Ding a ding a ding;
Sweet lovers love in spring,
Ding a ding a ding.

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

This carol they began that hour,
With a hey, and a ho, and a hey nonino,
How that a life was but a flow'r,
In spring time,
The only pretty ring time,
When birds do sing,
Ding a ding a ding;
Sweet lovers love in spring,
Ding a ding a ding.

And therefore take the present time,
With a hey, and a ho, and a hey nonino,
For love is crowned with the prime,
In spring time,
The only pretty ring time,
When birds do sing,
Ding a ding a ding;
Sweet lovers love in spring,
Ding a ding a ding.

As You Like It
Act 5, Scene 3
William Shakespeare (1564-1616)

It was a lover and his lass

G. A. Macfarren

Allegretto ♩ = 50

S

A

T

B

Hey - ho, hey no - ni - no, hey - ho, hey no - ni - no,

Hey - ho, hey no - ni - no, hey - ho, hey no - ni - no,

9

S

A

T

B

Hey - ho, hey no - ni - no, hey - ho, hey no - ni - no,

Hey - ho, hey no - ni - no, hey - ho, hey no - ni - no,

It was a lover and his lass

17

S *p* It was a lov - er and his lass, With a hey, and a ho, and a

A *p* It was a lov - er and his lass, With a hey, and a ho, and a

T *mf* Hey - ho, hey no - ni - no, Hey - ho,

B *mf* Hey - ho, hey no - ni - no, Hey - ho,

23

S *cresc.* hey no - ni - no, That o'er the green corn - fields did

A *cresc.* hey no - ni - no - ni, no - ni - no, That o'er the green corn - fields did

T *cresc.* hey no - ni - no, Hey - ho hey no - ni -

B *cresc.* hey no - ni - no, Hey - ho hey no - ni -

28

S *f* pass In spring time, The on - ly pret - ty

A *f* pass In spring time, The on - ly pret - ty

T *f* no, In spring time, The on - ly pret - ty

B *f* no, In spring time, The on - ly pret - ty

It was a lover and his lass

34 *cresc.*

S ring time, When birds do sing, Ding a ding a ding, ding,

A ring time, When birds do sing,

T ring time, When birds do sing, Ding a ding a

B ring time, When birds do sing, Ding a ding a ding,

39

S ding, ding, ding, ding a ding a ding a ding a ding a

A Ding a ding a ding, ding a ding a ding, ding a ding a ding a

T ding, ding a ding a ding, ding a ding a ding a ding a

B ding, ding, ding a ding a ding, ding a ding a

44

S ding ding, Sweet lov - ers love in spring; Sweet

A ding ding, Sweet lov - ers love in spring; Sweet

T ding ding, Sweet lov - ers love in spring; Sweet

B ding ding, Sweet lov - ers love in spring; Sweet

It was a lover and his lass

50

S lov - ers love _____ in spring, *mf* ding, ding ding a ding.

A lov - ers love _____ in spring, *mf* ding, ding ding a ding.

T lov - ers love _____ in spring, *mf* ding a ding a ding, ding a ding a ding ding a ding.

B lov - ers love _____ in spring, *mf* ding, ding ding a ding.

57

S _____ *p* Be -

A _____ *p* Be -

T *f* Hey - ho, hey no - ni - no, hey - ho, hey no - ni - no,

B *f* Hey - ho, hey no - ni - no, hey - ho, hey no - ni - no,

65

S tween the a - cres of the rye, With a hey and a ho, and a

A tween the a - cres of the rye, With a hey and a ho, and a

T *mf* hey - ho, hey no - ni - no, hey - ho,

B *mf* hey - ho, hey no - ni - no, hey - ho,

It was a lover and his lass

71

S hey no - ni - no, *p* These pret - ty coun - try folks *f* would lie In__

A hey no - ni - no - ni, no - ni - no, *p* These pret - ty coun - try folks *f* would lie In__

T hey no - ni - no, *p* hey - ho, hey no - ni - no,

B hey no - ni - no, *p* hey - ho, hey no - ni - no,

77

S spring time, *p* The on - ly pret - ty ring time, When

A spring time, *p* The on - ly pret - ty ring time, When

T *f* In__ spring time, *p* The on - ly pret - ty ring time, When

B *f* In__ spring time, *p* The on - ly pret - ty ring time, When

83

S *cresc.* birds__ do sing, Ding a ding a ding, ding, ding,

A birds do sing, *f cresc.* Ding a ding a

T birds do sing, *f cresc.* Ding a ding a ding, _____

B birds__ do sing, *f* Ding a ding a ding, ding,

It was a lover and his lass

88

S ding, ding, ding a ding a ding a ding a ding a ding ding,

A ding, ding a ding a ding, ding a ding a ding a ding ding,

T ding a ding a ding, ding a ding a ding a ding a ding ding,

B ding, ding, ding a ding a ding, ding a ding a ding ding,

93

S *pp* Sweet lov - ers love in spring; Sweet lov - ers

A *pp* Sweet lov - ers love in spring; Sweet lov - ers

T *pp* Sweet lov - ers love in spring; Sweet lov - ers

B *pp* Sweet lov - ers love in spring; Sweet lov - ers

99

S love in spring, ding, ding ding a ding.

A love in spring, ding, ding ding a ding.

T love in spring, ding a ding a ding, ding a ding a ding ding a ding.

B love in spring, ding, ding ding a ding.

It was a lover and his lass

105

S *mf* This

A *mf* This

T *pp* Hey - ho, hey no - ni - no, hey - ho, hey no - ni - no,

B *pp* Hey - ho, hey no - ni - no, hey - ho, hey no - ni - no,

113

S ca - rol they be - gan that hour, With a hey and a

A ca - rol they be - gan that hour, With a hey and a

T hey - ho, hey no - ni - no, hey -

B hey - ho, hey no - ni - no, hey -

118

S *cresc.* ho, and a hey no - ni - no - ni - no - ni - no - ni - no, How that a life was

A *cresc.* ho, and a hey no - ni - no, How that a life was

T ho, hey no - ni - no, hey - ho,

B ho, hey no - ni - no, hey - ho,

It was a lover and his lass

123

S but a flow'r, In spring time,

A but a flow'r, In spring time,

T hey no - ni - no, In spring

B hey no - ni - no, In spring

mf

128

S The on - ly pret - ty ring time, When birds do sing, Ding a ding a

A The on - ly pret - ty ring time, When birds do sing,

T time, The on - ly pret - ty ring time, When birds do sing,

B time, The on - ly pret - ty ring time, When birds do sing,

cresc.

133

S ding, ding, ding, ding, ding,

A Ding a ding a ding, ding, ding a ding a

T Ding a ding a ding, ding, ding a ding a ding,

B Ding a ding a ding, ding,

cresc.

It was a lover and his lass

138

S
ding a ding a ding a ding a ding a ding ding, Sweet lov - ers

A
ding a ding a ding a ding a ding a ding ding, Sweet lov - ers

T
ding, ding a ding a ding ding, Sweet lov - ers

B
ding, ding a ding a ding ding, Sweet lov - ers

143

S
love in spring, Sweet lov - ers love in

A
love in spring, Sweet lov - ers love in

T
love in spring, Sweet lov - ers love in

B
love in spring, Sweet lov - ers love in

149

S
spring, ding a ding a ding, ding a ding a ding, ding a ding.

A
spring, ding, ding, ding a ding.

T
spring, ding, ding, ding a ding.

B
spring, ding, ding, ding a ding.

It was a lover and his lass

153

S *f* And

A *f* And

T *f* Hey - ho, hey no - ni - no, hey - ho, het no - ni - no,

B *f* Hey - ho, hey no - ni - no, hey - ho, het no - ni - no,

161

S there - fore — take — the pres - ent time, — With a hey, and a

A there - fore — take — the pres - ent time, — With a hey, and a

T hey - - - ho, hey no - ni - no, hey -

B hey - - - ho, hey no - ni - no, hey -

166

S ho, and a hey no - ni - no, For — love — is —

A ho, and a hey no - ni - no - ni - no - ni - no, For love — is —

T ho, hey no - ni - no, hey - - -

B ho, hey no - ni - no, hey - - -

It was a lover and his lass

170

S crown - ed with the prime, In spring time,

A crown - ed with the prime, In spring time,

T ho, hey no - ni - no, In

B ho, hey no - ni - no, In

175

S The on - ly pret - ty ring time, When birds do

A The on - ly pret - ty ring time, When birds do

T spring time, The on - ly pret - ty ring time, When birds do

B spring time, The on - ly pret - ty ring time, When birds do

180

S sing, Ding a ding a ding, ding, ding, ding,

A sing, Ding a ding a ding,

T sing, Ding a ding a ding, ding a ding a

B sing, Ding a ding a ding, ding, ding,

It was a lover and his lass

185

S ding, ding a ding a ding a ding a ding a ding ding, Sweet

A — ding a ding a ding, ding a ding a ding a ding ding, Sweet

T ding, — ding a ding a ding a ding a ding ding, Sweet

B — ding a ding a ding, ding a ding a ding ding, Sweet

190

S lov - ers love in spring; Sweet lov - ers

A lov - ers love in spring; Sweet lov - ers

T lov - ers love in spring; Sweet lov - ers

B lov - ers love in spring; Sweet lov - ers

195

S love in

A love in

T love in

B love in

cresc. *p*

It was a lover and his lass

200

S
spring, Ding, ding, ding,

A
spring, Ding, ding, ding,

T
spring, Ding, ding, ding,

B
spring, Ding a ding a ding a ding, ding a ding a, ding a ding a ding a ding a ding a *cresc.*

205

S
ding, ding, ding, ding ding a ding.

A
ding, ding, ding, ding ding a ding.

T
ding, ding, ding a ding a ding, ding a ding a ding ding a ding.

B
ding a ding a ding a ding, ding, ding ding a ding.

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