



SSA

A spring song

Philip James
(1890-1975)

A spring song

P. James

Delicately and gracefully ♩ = 88

S 1 *mf* Spring, sweet spring, is the year's pleas - ant

S 2 *mf* Spring, sweet spring, is the year's pleas - ant

A *mf* Spring, the sweet spring, is the year's pleas - ant

Piano *mf*

A spring song

S 1
king, Spring, sweet spring, Spring, sweet spring, sweet

S 2
king, Then blooms each thing,

A
king, Then blooms each thing,

Pno.

S 1
spring, sweet spring, Cold doth not sting, the

S 2
then maids dance in a ring, Cold doth

A
then maids dance in a ring, Cold doth not sting, the

Pno.

A spring song

S 1
pret - ty birds do sing: Cuc -

S 2
not sting, Cuc -

A
pret - ty birds do sing:

Pno.
p
una corda
pp leggiero
Ped. ad lib.

S 1
koo! _____ *Tempo 1* *mf* The palm and may_ make

S 2
koo! _____ *mf* The palm and may make

A
to-wit-ta - woo! _____ *mf* The palm and may make

Pno.
mf tre corde

A spring song

19

S 1
coun - try hous - es gay, Spring, sweet spring, sweet

S 2
coun - try hous - es gay, Lambs frisk and play,

A
coun - try hous - es gay, Lambs frisk and play,

Pno.

23

S 1
spring, sweet spring, we hear birds

S 2
the shep - herds pipe all day, And we hear

A
the shep - herds pipe all day, And we hear birds

Pno.

27

S 1
tune this mer - ry lay:

S 2
birds:

A
tune this mer - ry lay:

Pno.
27
dim. e rit.
pp una corda
leggiero
Ped. ad lib.

31

S 1
p ad lib.
Cuc - koo, Cuc - koo, Cuc - koo, Cuc - koo, Cuc -

S 2
p ad lib.
Cuc - koo, Cuc - koo, Cuc - koo, Cuc - koo, Cuc -

A

Pno.
31

A spring song

The musical score is arranged in four systems. The first three systems are for vocal parts: Soprano 1 (S1), Soprano 2 (S2), and Alto (A). Each vocal line begins with a treble clef, a key signature of two sharps (F# and C#), and a common time signature. The tempo marking 'a tempo' is placed above the first measure of each vocal line. The lyrics 'koo, Cuc - koo!' are written below the notes. The piano accompaniment (Pno.) is in the fourth system, featuring a grand staff with treble and bass clefs. It includes a piano (pp) dynamic marking and a fermata over the final notes. There are two asterisks (*) on the piano part, one under the first measure and one under the final measure.

H. W. Gray
(1916)

Philip James (1890–1975) was born in Jersey City, New Jersey. He was a choirboy in a number of churches and took piano, violin and theory lessons as a child. As he grew older, he studied advanced harmony, counterpoint, and composition. He also studied organ in Paris. During World War I he was director of the American Expeditionary Forces Headquarters Band; after the war he conducted the Victor Herbert Opera Company. He co-founded and was the first conductor of the New Jersey Symphony Orchestra and was conductor of the Bamberger Little Symphony. He taught at New York University and was head of the music department for over twenty years. His students included Milton Babbitt and Bernard Herrmann.

Spring, the sweet spring, is the year's pleasant king,
Then blooms each thing, then maids dance in a ring,
Cold doth not sting, the pretty birds do sing:
Cuckoo, jug-jug, pu-we, to-witta-woo!

The palm and may make country houses gay,
Lambs frisk and play, the shepherds pipe all day,
And we hear aye birds tune this merry lay:
Cuckoo, jug-jug, pu-we, to-witta-woo!

Thomas Nashe (1567 – c. 1601)

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