



**Hey nonny no!**

**H. Ernest Nichol  
(1862-1926)**

# Hey nonny no!

H. Ernest Nichol

Vivace ♩ = 160

S *mf* Oh! the first of May was a mer - ry, mer - ry day, In the times of \_\_\_ long a -

A *mf* Oh! the first of May was a mer - ry, mer - ry day, In the times of \_\_\_ long a -

T *mf* Oh! the first of May was a mer - ry, mer - ry day, In the times of \_\_\_ long a -

B *mf* Oh! the first of May was a mer - ry, mer - ry day, In the times of long a -

S<sup>4</sup> go, For \_\_\_ lad and lass went a - danc - ing on the grass, With a

A go, For lad and lass went a - danc - ing on the grass, With a

T go, non - ny no, For lad and lass went a - danc - ing on the grass, With a

B go, non - ny no, For \_\_\_ lad and lass went a - danc - ing on the grass, With a

# Hey nonny no!

7

S non - ny, non - ny no, non - ny no, With a hey non - ny no, hey

A non - ny, non - ny no, non - ny no, With a hey non - ny no, hey

T non - ny, non - ny no, non - ny no, With a hey non - ny no, hey

B non - ny, non - ny no, non - ny no, With a hey non - ny no, hey

10

S non - ny, non - ny no, hey *rall.* non - ny, non - ny no, no, *p* no.

A non - ny, non - ny no, hey *rall.* non - ny, non - ny no, no, *p* no.

T non - ny, non - ny no, hey *rall.* non - ny, non - ny no, no, *p* no.

B non - ny, non - ny no, hey *rall.* non - ny, non - ny no, no, *p* no.

## CHORUS *a tempo*

S *mf* With a der - ry down day, And a fa la la la lay, And a hey, non - ny, non - ny, non - ny

A *mf* No, no, no, no, no, no, no, no, And a hey, non - ny, non - ny, non - ny

T *mf* No, no, no, no, no, no, no, no, And a hey, non - ny, non - ny, non - ny

B *mf* No, no, no, no, no, no, no, no, And a hey, non - ny, non - ny

# Hey nonny no!

16

S *f* no, With a der - ry down day, And a fa la la la lay, And a

A *f* no, With a der - ry down day, And a fa la la la lay, And a

T *f* no, With a der - ry down day, And a fa la la la lay, And a

B no, non - ny non - ny non - ny no, no, no, And a fa la la la lay, And a

Detailed description: This system contains the first four staves of music, numbered 16. The vocal parts (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) are written in treble clefs with a key signature of one sharp (F#). The Soprano, Alto, and Tenor parts begin with a half note rest followed by a quarter note melody. The Bass part begins with a half note rest followed by a quarter note melody. The lyrics are: 'no, With a der - ry down day, And a fa la la la lay, And a' for Soprano, Alto, and Tenor. The Bass part has the lyrics: 'no, non - ny non - ny non - ny no, no, no, And a fa la la la lay, And a'. A dynamic marking of *f* (forte) is placed above the first measure of each vocal line.

19

S hey non - ny no, hey non - ny no, hey non - ny no, no,

A hey non - ny no, hey non - ny no, hey non - ny no, no,

T hey non - ny no, hey non - ny no, hey non - ny no, no,

B hey, hey non - ny no, hey non - ny no, no, no,

Detailed description: This system contains the next four staves of music, numbered 19. The vocal parts continue with the melody. The lyrics are: 'hey non - ny no, hey non - ny no, hey non - ny no, no,' for Soprano, Alto, and Tenor. The Bass part has the lyrics: 'hey, hey non - ny no, hey non - ny no, no, no,'. The Soprano, Alto, and Tenor parts have a slur over the first three notes of each phrase.

22

S non - ny, non - ny no, hey non - ny, non - ny no, non - ny no.

A non - ny, non - ny no, hey non - ny, non - ny no, non - ny no.

T non - ny, non - ny no, hey non - ny, non - ny no, non - ny no.

B no, no, no, hey non - ny, non - ny no, non - ny no.

Detailed description: This system contains the final four staves of music, numbered 22. The vocal parts conclude the piece. The lyrics are: 'non - ny, non - ny no, hey non - ny, non - ny no, non - ny no.' for Soprano, Alto, and Tenor. The Bass part has the lyrics: 'no, no, no, hey non - ny, non - ny no, non - ny no.' The Soprano, Alto, and Tenor parts have a slur over the first three notes of each phrase.

# Hey nonny no!

## VERSE TWO

S *mf* On the first of May all a - round is glad and gay, For the winds of — spring do

A *mf* On the first of May all a - round is glad and gay, For the winds of — spring do

T *mf* On the first of May all a - round is glad and gay, For the winds of — spring do

B *mf* On the first of May all a - round is glad and gay, For the winds of spring do

28 S blow, And — all the birds seem to sing the mer - ry words Of a

A blow, And all the birds seem to sing the mer - ry words Of a

T blow, non - ny no, And all the birds seem to sing the mer - ry words Of a

B blow, non - ny no, And — all the birds seem to sing the mer - ry words Of a

31 S non - ny, non - ny no, non - ny no, — Of a hey non - ny no, hey

A non - ny, non - ny no, non - ny no, Of a hey non - ny no, hey

T non - ny, non - ny no, non - ny no, Of a hey non - ny no, hey

B non - ny, non - ny no, non - ny no, Of a hey non - ny no, hey

# Hey nonny no!

34

*rall.* *p*

S non - ny, non - ny no, hey non - ny, non - ny no, no, no.

A non - ny, non - ny no, hey non - ny, non - ny no, no, no.

T non - ny, non - ny no, hey non - ny, non - ny no, no, no.

B non - ny, non - ny no, hey non - ny, non - ny no, no, no.

VERSE THREE

37

*mf*

S For the first of May is still a time for play, As the hearts of chil - dren

A For the first of May is still a time for play, As the hearts of chil - dren

T For the first of May is still a time for play, As the hearts of chil - dren

B For the first of May is still a time for play, As the hearts of chil - dren

41

S know, So let us sing while we're trip - ping in a ring, With a

A know, So let us sing while we're trip - ping in a ring, With a

T know, non - ny no, So let us sing while we're trip - ping in a ring, With a

B know, non - ny no, So let us sing while we're trip - ping in a ring, With a

# Hey nonny no!

44

S non - ny, non - ny no, non - ny no, With a hey non - ny no, hey

A non - ny, non - ny no, non - ny no, With a hey non - ny no, hey

T non - ny, non - ny no, non - ny no, With a hey non - ny no, hey

B non - ny, non - ny no, non - ny no, With a hey non - ny no, hey

47

S non - ny, non - ny no, hey non - ny - non - ny no, no, no. *rall.* *p*

A non - ny, non - ny no, hey non - ny - non - ny no, no, no. *rall.* *p*

T non - ny, non - ny no, hey non - ny - non - ny no, no, no. *rall.* *p*

B non - ny, non - ny no, hey non - ny - non - ny no, no, no. *rall.* *p*

J. Curwen & Sons  
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**Henry Ernest Nichol** (1862-1926) was born in Hull, Yorkshire, England. He originally planned to be a civil engineer but abandoned an apprenticeship to study music privately, then graduated from Oxford University. He settled back in Hull as performer and teacher. He was music master at Hull Grammar School, organist at St. Andrew's, conductor of the North Cave Choral Society, and conductor of the Newport Harmonic Society. He was also musical editor for The Sunday School Union and wrote books on choir training and a primer on transposition at sight. He died in Yorkshire, England. His compositions include cantatas, services, anthems, carols, hymns, songs, piano pieces, and part-songs. His best known hymn is "We've a Story to Tell to the Nations." He often wrote under the pseudonym Colin Sterne, an anagram of his name.

Oh! the first of May was a merry, merry day,  
In the times of long ago,  
For lad and lass went dancing on the grass,  
With a hey nonny no.

*With a derry down day,  
And a fa la la la lay,  
And a hey nonny no.*

On the first of May all around is glad and gay,  
For the winds of spring do blow,  
And all the birds seem to sing the merry words  
With a hey nonny no.

For the first of May is still a time for play,  
As the hearts of children know,  
So let us sing while we're tripping in a ring,  
With a hey nonny no.

"Colin Sterne"

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