



**It was a lover and his lass**

**David Christmas Williams**  
**(1871-1926)**

# It was a lover and his lass

D. C. Williams

**Allegretto**

The first system of the musical score is for the vocal parts. It features four staves: Soprano (S), Alto (A), Tenor (T), and Bass (B). The key signature is three sharps (F#, C#, G#) and the time signature is 2/4. The tempo is marked 'Allegretto'. The Soprano part begins with a dynamic of *mf* and includes markings for *dim.* and *p*. The lyrics for each part are: S: 'It was a lov - er and his'; A: 'It was a lov - er and his'; T: 'It was a lov - er and his'; B: 'hey, was a lov - er and his'.

The second system of the musical score continues the vocal parts. It features four staves: Soprano (S), Alto (A), Tenor (T), and Bass (B). The key signature remains three sharps and the time signature is 2/4. The tempo is marked 'Allegretto'. The Soprano part includes markings for *rit.*, *ten.*, *dim.*, and *p a tempo*. The lyrics for each part are: S: 'lass, With a hey, and a ho, and a hey non - i - no!'; A: 'lass, With a hey, and a ho, and a hey non - i - no! With a hey, and a'; T: 'lass, With a hey, and a ho, and a hey non - i - no!'; B: 'lass, With a hey, and a ho, and a hey non - i - no! With a hey, and a'.



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7

S — That o'er the corn - fields did —

A ho, and a hey non - i - no! That o'er the green corn - fields did

T — a hey non - i - no! That o'er the green corn - fields did

B ho! That o'er the green corn - fields did

11

S pass In the spring time, in the spring time,

A pass In the spring time, in the

T pass In the spring time, in the

B pass In the spring time, in the

14

S The on - ly pret - ty ring time,

A spring time, Hey ho, hey, non - i -

T spring time, The on - ly pret - ty

B spring time, Hey ho, hey non - i -

## It was a lover and his lass

16

S *mf* With a

A no! *mf* With a

T ring time, Hey ho!

B ring no! Hey ho!

The on - ly pret - ty, on - ly pret - ty, on - ly pret - ty ring time,

19

S hey ho, and a hey

A hey ho, and a hey

T *mf* With a hey, and a ho, *rit.* *p* and a hey non - i -

B *mf* Hey *rit.* *p* ho!

22

S *pp* non - i - no! *mp* *a tempo* When birds do sing, *poco a poco cresc.* Hey, ding a ding, When

A *pp* non - i - no! *mp* *a tempo* When birds sing, *poco a poco cresc.* Hey, ding a ding, When

T *pp* no! *mp* *a tempo* When birds sing, *poco a poco cresc.* Hey, ding a ding, When

B *pp* Hey non - i - no! *mp* *a tempo* When birds do sing, *poco a poco cresc.* Hey, ding a ding, When

# It was a lover and his lass

25

S birds do sing, Hey, ding a ding;

A birds sing, Hey, ding a ding, ding, ding; Sweet lov - ers

T birds sing, Hey, ding a ding; Sweet lov - ers

B birds do sing, Hey, ding a ding; Sweet lov - ers love in

28

S Sweet lov - - - - ers love in

A love in spring, Sweet lov - ers love in

T love in spring, Sweet lov - ers love in

B spring, Sweet lov - ers, sweet lov - ers love in

31

S spring, Sweet lov - ers

A spring, Hey, ding a ding, ding, hey, ding, ding, Sweet lov - ers

T spring, Hey, ding a ding, ding, hey, ding, ding, Sweet lov - ers

B spring, Hey, ding a ding, ding, hey, ding, ding, Sweet lov - ers

*p leggiero*

*f rall. a tempo rall.*

*f rall. a tempo dim. rall.*

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35 *a tempo*

S love in spring, With a hey and a ho, and a hey non - i -

A love in spring, With a hey and a ho, and a hey non - i -

T *p a tempo* lov - ers love in spring, With a hey and a ho, and a hey non - i -

B *a tempo* love in spring.

38 *rit.* *dim.*

S no!

A *rit.* *dim.* no! Hey ho! non - i - no!

T *rit.* *dim.* no! Hey ho! non - i - no!

B *rit.* *dim.* Hey ho!

41 *poco meno mosso*

S *p dolce* Be - tween the a - cres of the

A *p dolce* Be - tween the a - cres of the

T *p dolce* Be - tween the a - cres, the a - cres

B *p dolce* Be - tween the a - cres, the a - cres

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44

S rye, With a hey and a ho, and a hey

A rye, With a hey ho, and a hey

T of the rye,

B of the rye,

*rit.*

47

S *a tempo* non - i - no! These pret - ty coun - try folks would

A *a tempo* non - i - no! These pret - ty coun - try folks would

T *a tempo* — These pret - ty coun - try folks, these pret - ty

B *a tempo* — These pret - ty coun - try folks, these pret - ty

50

S *leggiere* lie In the *poco più mosso* spring time, in the

A *leggiere* lie In the *poco più mosso* spring time, in the

T *poco più mosso* folks would lie *leggiere* In the spring time,

B *poco più mosso* folks would lie *leggiere* In the spring time,

## It was a lover and his lass

53

S spring — time, in the spring

A spring — time, The on - ly pret - ty

T in the spring time, The on - ly pret - ty

B in the spring time,

56

S time, The on - ly pret - ty ring time, Hey

A ring time, the on - ly pret - ty ring time, Hey

T ring time, the on - ly pret - ty ring time,

B in the spring time,

When

59

S birds do sing, Hey, ding a

A ho, hey

T Hey, ding a ding!

B Hey, ding a ding!



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62

S *ding,*  
ho! Sweet lov - ers love in spring, Sweet

A ho, Sweet lov - - - - ers love in

T Hey, ding a ding! Lov - ers love in spring, Sweet

B Hey, ding a ding! Lov - ers love in spring, Sweet

65

S *cresc.* lov - ers love in spring, *ff* Sweet lov - ers

A *cresc.* spring, *ff* Sweet lov - - - -

T *cresc.* lov - ers love in spring, Sweet lov - - - -

B *cresc.* lov - ers love in spring, Sweet lov - - - -

68

S

A *mf* ers, sweet lov - ers love in spring, Sweet lov - ers

T *mf* ers, sweet lov - ers love in spring, Sweet lov - ers

B *dim.* *mf* ers, sweet lov - ers love

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71

*poco meno mosso*

*p* *dolce*

S love in spring, This car - ol

*dim.* *poco meno mosso* *p* *dolce*

A love in spring, This car - ol

*dim.* *poco meno mosso* *p* *dolce*

T love in spring. This car - ol they be -

*dim.* *poco meno mosso* *p* *dolce*

B in spring, This car - ol they be -

74

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

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

T gan, they be - gan that hour,

B gan, they be - gan that hour,

77

*rit. molto* *a tempo*

S hey non - i - no, How that

*rit. molto* *a tempo*

A hey non - i - no! How that

*rit. molto* *a tempo*

T How that life was but a

*rit. molto* *a tempo*

B How that life was but a

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80

S life was but a flow'r, In the spring time,

A life was but a flow'r, In the spring time,

T flow'r, but a flow'r, In the

B flow'r, but a flow'r, In the

*leggiero* *poco più mosso*

*leggiero* *poco più mosso*

*poco più mosso* *leggiero*

*poco più mosso* *leggiero*

83

S in the spring time, in the

A in the spring time, The

T spring time, in the spring time, The

B spring time, in the spring time,

*mf* *mf* *mf*

86

S spring time, The on - ly pret - ty, pret - ty

A on - ly pret - ty, pret - ty ring time, the on - ly pret - ty, pret - ty

T on - ly pret - ty, pret - ty ring time, the on - ly pret - ty, pret - ty

B

*cresc.* *cresc.* *cresc.* *cresc.*

in the spring

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89

S ring time, Hey When birds do sing, ho, hey

A ring time, Hey ho, hey

T ring time, Hey, ding a ding!

B time, Hey, ding a ding!

*f*

*mf*

92

S Hey, ding a ding, ho! Sweet lov - ers love in

A ho, Sweet lov - - -

T Hey, ding a ding! Lov - ers

B Hey. ding a ding! Lov - ers

*f*

*mf*

*f*

95

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

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

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

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

*cresc.*

*ff*

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99 *dim.* *mp* *meno mosso*

S love in spring, When birds do sing, Ding a

A ers love in spring, When birds do sing, Ding a

T ers love in spring, When birds do sing, Ding a

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

103 *dim.* *p* *rit.* *dim.* *pp* *mf* *a tempo*

S ding; Sweet lov - ers love in spring. This

A ding; Sweet lov - ers love in spring. This

T ding; Sweet lov - ers love in spring. This

B - ers love in spring, love in spring, This

107 *dim.*

S car - ol they be - gan that hour,

A car - ol they be - gan that hour,

T car - ol they be - gan that hour,

B car - ol they be - gan that hour,

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109

*rit.*

S How that life was but a flow'r,

A How that life was but a

T How that life was but a flow'r,

B How that life was but a flow'r,

111

*a tempo* *mp* *p*

S How that life was but a flow'r,

A flow'r, How that life was but a flow'r, How that

T How that life was but a flow'r, How that

B How that life was but a flow'r, How that life

114

*pp* *slargando molto*

S And

A life was but a flow'r,

T life was but a flow'r,

B was but a flow'r.

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116 *Come prima*

S *f* there - fore take *p* the pres - ent

A *mf* And there - fore take *dim.* *p* the pres - ent

T *mf* And there - fore take *dim.* *p* the pres - ent

B *mf* And there - fore take *dim.* *p* the pres - ent

119 *rit.* *ten.* *dim.* *a tempo*

S time, With a hey, and a ho, and a hey non - i - no!

A time, With a hey, and a ho, and a hey non - i - no! With a hey, and a

T time, With a hey, and a ho, and a hey non - i - no!

B time, With a hey, and a ho, and a hey non - i - no! With a hey and a

122 *f*

S — For love is crown - ed

A ho, and a hey non - i - no! For love is

T — a hey non - i - no! For love is

B ho! For love is

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125

S with the prime, In the spring time, in the

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

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

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

*p* *mf* *cresc.*

128

S spring time, The on - ly pret - ty ring time,

A in the spring time, Hey ho, hey non - i -

T in the spring time, The on - ly pret - ty

B in the spring time, Hey ho, hey non - i -

*cresc.*

131

S no!

A no!

T ring time, Hey

B no! Hey

The on - ly pret - ty, on - ly pret - ty, on - ly pret - ty



It was a lover and his lass

133

S *mf* With a hey ho, and a *p rit.*

A *mf* With a hey ho, and a *p rit.*

T ho! With a hey and a ho,

B ho! ring time, Hey

136

S *pp* hey non - i - no! *mp a tempo poco a poco cresc.* When birds do sing,

A *pp* hey non - i - no! *mp a tempo poco a poco cresc.* When birds do sing, Ding a

T *p dim.* and a hey non - i - no! *mp a tempo poco a poco cresc.* When birds do sing, Ding a

B *p* ho, *pp* hey non - i - no! *mp a tempo poco a poco cresc.* When birds do sing,

139

S Hey ding a ding, When birds do sing, Hey ding a ding;

A ding, When birds do sing, Ding a ding, ding, ding;

T ding, When birds do sing, Ding a ding;

B Hey ding a ding, When birds do sing, Hey ding a ding; Sweet

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142

S Sweet lov - - - -

A Sweet lov - ers love in spring, Sweet

T Sweet lov - ers love in spring, Sweet

B lov - ers love in spring, Sweet lov - ers, sweet

145

S - ers love in spring,

A lov - ers love in spring, Hey, ding a ding, ding a ding, ding,

T lov - ers love in spring, Hey, ding a ding, ding, It ding, ding,

B lov - ers love in spring, Hey, ding a ding, ding, hey, ding, ding,

148

S Sweet *rall.* lov - ers love in spring, With a hey, and a

A Sweet *rall.* lov - ers love in spring, With a hey, and a

T Sweet *rall.* lov - ers love in spring, With a hey, and a

B Sweet *rall.* lov - ers love in spring, With a hey, and a

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152

*rit. dim.*

S ho, and a hey non - i - no!

A ho, and a hey non - i - no! Hey ho, non - i - no!

T ho, and a hey non - i - no! Hey ho, non - i - no!

B Hey ho!

156

*Lento*

S Hey ho! Hey ho! Hey ho! non - i - no! Hey ho! non - i - no!

A Hey ho, hey ho! Hey ho! non - i - no! Hey ho!

T Hey ho! Hey ho! Hey ho! non - i - no! Hey ho!

B Hey ho! Hey ho! Hey ho, Hey non - i -

159

*rit. e dim.*

S Hey ho!

A non - i - no! Hey ho! non - i - no!

T non - i - no! Hey ho! non - i - no!

B non - i - no!

**David Christmas Williams** (1871-1926) was born in Llanwrtyd, Brecknock, Wales. Composing by the age of 14, he was educated at University College, Cardiff, and South Wales School of Music. He studied under Dr. Joseph Parry and became his assistant. He was organist and choirmaster at a chapel in Penart, then a music teacher at Merthyr Tydfil and organist of Hope chapel. He was the conductor of Merthyr Musical Society and the North Glamorgan Orchestral Society. His music, popular in London, included cantatas, a suite for orchestra, an orchestral overture, numerous works for male voices, hymns, anthems, and part-songs.

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)

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