



When May is in his prime

John Nicholson Ireland
(1879-1962)

With animation ♩ = 116-120

S *mf* When May is in his prime, then may each heart re - jice;

A *mf* When May is in his prime, then may each heart re - jice;

T *mf* When May is in his prime, then may each heart re - jice;

B *mf* When May is in his prime, then may each heart re - jice;



When May is in his prime

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S — When May be - decks each branch with green, each bird strains forth his

A — When May be - decks each branch with green, each bird strains forth his

T — When — May be - decks each branch with green, each — bird strains forth his

B — When May be - decks each branch with green, each bird strains forth his

6

S voice, The live - ly sap _____ creeps up _____ in - to the bloom - ing thorn, The

A voice, The live - ly sap _____ creeps up _____ in - to the bloom - ing thorn, The

T voice, The live - ly sap _____ creeps up _____ in - to the bloom - ing thorn, The

B voice, The live - ly sap _____ creeps up _____ in - to the bloom - ing thorn, The

9

S flow'rs, which cold in pris - on kept, — now laugh the frost to

A flow'rs, which cold in pris - on kept, — now laugh the frost to

T flow'rs, which cold in pris - on kept, — now laugh the frost to

B flow'rs, which cold in pris - on kept, — now laugh the frost to

When May is in his prime

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S scorn. All Na - ture's imps tri - umph, while joy - ful May doth last; When May

A scorn. All Na - ture's imps tri - umph, while joy - ful May doth last; When May

T scorn. All Na - ture's imps tri - umph, while joy - ful May doth last;

B scorn. All Na - ture's imps tri - umph, while joy - ful May doth last; When May

18

S — is gone, of all the year the pleas - ant time is past. May

A — is gone, of all the year the pleas - ant time is past. May

T When May is gone, the pleas - ant time is past. May

B — is gone, of all the year the pleas - ant time is past. May

23

S makes the cheer - ful hue, May breeds and brings new blood, May march - eth through-out

A makes the cheer - ful hue, May breeds and brings new blood, May march - eth through-out

T makes the cheer - ful hue, May breeds and brings new blood, May march - eth through-out

B makes the cheer - ful hue, May breeds and brings new blood, May march - eth through-out

When May is in his prime

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S ev - 'ry limb, May makes the mer - ry mood. May prick-eth ten - der hearts, — their war-bling

A ev - 'ry limb, May makes the mer - ry mood. May prick-eth ten - der hearts, — their war-bling

T ev - 'ry limb, May makes the mer - ry mood. May prick-eth ten - der hearts, — their war-bling

B ev - 'ry limb, May makes the mer - ry mood. May prick-eth ten - der hearts, — their war-bling

30

S notes to tune, Full strange it is, — yet some, — we see, do

A notes to tune, Full strange it is, — yet some, — we see, do

T notes to tune, Full strange it is, — yet some, — we see, do

B notes to tune, — Full strange it is, — yet some, — we see, — do

34

S make their May in June. Thus things are — strange - ly wrought, whiles

A make their May in June. Thus things are strange - ly wrought, whiles

T make their May in June. Thus things are — strange - ly wrought, whiles

B make their May in June. Thus things are strange - ly wrought, whiles

When May is in his prime

38 *f* *>* *A little slower* *p*

S joy - ful May doth last; Take May in time,

A joy - ful May doth last; Take May in time, when

T joy - ful May doth last; when May is

B joy - ful May doth last; Take May in time, when

42 *poco rit.* *Tempo 1* *f*

S — when May is gone, the pleas - ant time is past. All

A May is gone, the pleas - ant time is past. All

T gone, the pleas - ant time is past. All

B May is gone, the pleas - ant time is past. All

46

S ye that live on earth, and have your May at will, Re - joice in May, as

A ye that live on earth, and have your May at will, Re - joice in May, as

T ye that live on earth, and have your May at will, Re - joice in May, as

B ye that live on earth, and have your May at will, Re - joice in May, as

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49

S I do now, and use your May with skill. Use May ___ while that you May, for May hath

A I do now, and use your May with skill. Use May ___ while that you May, for May hath

T I do now, and use your May with skill. Use May ___ while that you May, for May hath

B I do now, and use your May with skill. Use May ___ while that you May, for May hath

53

S but his time; When all the fruit is gone, ___ it is too

A but his time; ___ When all the fruit is gone, ___ it ___ is too

T but his time; ___ When all the fruit is gone, ___ it is too

B but his time; ___ When all the fruit is gone, ___ it ___ is too

57

S late the tree to climb, Your lik - ing, ___ and your

A late the tree to climb, Your lik - ing, and your

T late the tree to climb, Your ___ lik - ing, ___ and your

B late the tree to climb, Your lik - ing, and your

When May is in his prime

60

S
lust is fresh whiles May doth last; *ten.*

A
lust is fresh whiles May doth last; *ten.*

T
lust is fresh whiles May doth last; *ten.*

B
lust is fresh whiles May doth last; *ten.*

Poco alla cappella ♩ = ♩

64

S
p (sotto voce)
When May is gone, of all the year the

A
p (sotto voce)
When May is gone, of all the year the

T
mp
When May is gone, of all the

B
p (sotto voce)
When May is gone, of all the year the

67

S
rit. *pp*
pleas - ant time is past.

A
rit. *pp*
pleas - ant time is past.

T
rit. *pp*
year the pleas - ant time is past.

B
rit. *pp*
pleas - ant time is past.

When May is in his prime, then may each heart rejoyce;
When May bedecks each branch with green, each bird strains forth his voice,
The lively sap creeps up into the blooming thorn,
The flowers, which cold in prison kept, now laugh the frost to scorn.
All Nature's imps triumph, while joyful May doth last;
When May is gone, of all the year the pleasant time is past.

May makes the cheerful hue, May breeds and brings new blood,
May marcheth throughout every limb, May makes the merry mood.
May pricketh tender hearts, their warbling notes to tune,
Full strange it is, yet some, we see, do make their May in June.
Thus things are strangely wrought, whiles joyful May doth last;
Take May in time, when May is gone, the pleasant time is past.

All ye that live on earth, and have your May at will,
Rejoice in May, as I do now, and use your May with skill.
Use May while that you May, for May hath but his time;
When all the fruit is gone, it is too late the tree to climb,
Your liking, and your lust is fresh whiles May doth last;
When May is gone, of all the year the pleasant time is past.

Richard Edwardes (1525-1566)

Original spelling:

When May is in his prime, then may eche hart reioyce,
When May bedeckes ech branch with greene, ech bird streines forth his voice:
The lively sap creepes up, into the bloming thorne
The flowres which cold in prison kept, now laughe the frost to scorne:
All Natures Impes triumphes, whiles ioyfull May doth last,
When May is gone, of all the yeare the pleasaunt time is past.

May makes the chearefull hue, May breedes and brings new bloud,
May marcheth throughout evry lim, May makes the mery mood:
May pricketh tender hartes, their warbling notes to tune,
Full straunge it is, yet some we see, do make their May in June:
Thus thinges are straungely wrought, whiles ioyfull May doth last,
Take May in time, when May is gone, the pleasaunt time is past.

All yet hat live on earth, and have your May at will,
Reioyce in May, as I doe now, and use your May with skill:
Use May while that you may, for May hath but his time,
When all the fruite is gone, it is to late the Tree to clime:
Your liking and your lust, is fresh whiles May doth last,
When May is gone, of all the yeare, the pleasaunt time is past.

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