

CANTVS. VI. THO. MORLEY.

I was a lover and his lass, With a haye with a hoc and a haye nonie no and a haye nonie nonie no, That ore the green come fields did passe in spring time, ij, ij, the onely pretiring time whē birds do sing, hay ding ading ading ij, ij, oob nuz sweete louers loue the springe in spring time, ij, 7 the onely pretiring time whē birds do sing, Haye ding ading ading, ij, oob nuz sweete louers loue the spring.

FOR THE BASE VIOLE. VI. THO. MORLEY.

2 Betweene the Akers of the rie,
With a hay, with a ho and a haye nonie no,
These prettie Countrie fooles would lie,
In spring time, the onely prettie ring time,
When Birds doe sing, haye ding a ding a ding,
Sweete louers loue the spring.

3 This Carrell they began that houre,
With a hay, with a ho and a haye nonie no,
How that a life was but a flower,
In spring time, the onely prettie ring time,
When Birds doe sing, haye ding a ding a ding,
Sweete louers loue the spring.

4 Then prettie louers take the time,
With a hay, with a ho and a haye nonie no,
For loue is crowned with the prime,
In spring time, the onely prettie ring time,
When Birds doe sing, haye ding a ding a ding,
Sweete louers loue the spring.

Morley, Thomas. *The first booke of ayres. Or Little short songs, to sing and play to the lute, with the base viole*. London: Newly published by Thomas Morley Bachiler of Musicke, and one of the gent. of her Maiesties Royall Chappel, 1600. Folger STC 18115.5

Act 5 includes the song "It was a lover and his lass," published in Thomas Morley's *First Book of Ayres* in 1600. The only existing copy of this book is in the Folger Shakespeare Library. We're not sure which came first. It is possible that Shakespeare wrote the words and Morley the music, that Morley wrote the song and Shakespeare used it for his play, or that this was a popular song used by both Shakespeare and Morley.

From an original in the [Folger Shakespeare Library](#)
Licensed under a [Creative Commons Attribution-ShareAlike 4.0 International License](#) (CC BY-SA 4.0)