

**Classic Poetry Series**

**Thomas Morley**  
**- poems -**

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# Thomas Morley(1557 - 1602)

Morley contributed significantly to the development of the English madrigal, imitated from Italian models. He was probably a pupil of William Byrd, to whom he dedicated his popular book *A Plaine and Easie Introduction to Practicall Musicke*, published in 1597. Morley was employed at St. Paul's in London and became a Gentleman of the Chapel Royal in 1592, publishing his first set of part-songs in 1593. He was later concerned in printing and publishing music, for which he was granted a share in the monopoly in 1598.

## Church Music:

Morley wrote music for the liturgy of the Church of England, service settings, psalm settings and a number of Latin motets, under the influence of Byrd and a possible indication of his own religious sympathies at the time. Of particular interest is the setting of the *De profundis*, *Out of the deep*, in a second setting as a verse anthem, a peculiarly English form derived from the consort song of the period, involving the contrast of solo voices with the choir, with instrumental accompaniment from the organ or other groups of instruments.

## Madrigals:

It is as a composer of madrigals that Morley is widely known. The *Canzonets or Little Short Songs to Three Voyces*, published in 1593 were followed by a collection of four-part Madrigals in 1594 and a series of other publications during the decade, some of them adaptations and arrangements of Italian madrigals. In 1601 Morley published the collaborative *Triumphs of Oriana*, a tribute to Queen Elizabeth for which he collected madrigals by 23 composers as an offering to the aging Arcadian Queen of the Shepherds. Well known madrigals by Morley include *Aprill is in my mistris face*, *My bonny lasse shee smyleth*, *Now is the month of maying*, *O sleep, fond fancy*, *Sing wee and chaunt it*, *Sweet nympe, come to thy lover* and *Though Philomela lost hir love*. Solo songs by Morley include *It was a lover and his lasse*, a song that appears in Shakespeare's pastoral comedy *As You Like It*.

# My bonny lass she smileth

My bonny lass she smileth  
When she my heart beguileth. Fa la.  
Smile less, dear love, therefore,  
And you shall love me more. Fa la.

When she her sweet eye turneth,  
O how my heart doth burneth! Fa la.  
Dear love, call in their light,  
O else you burn me quite! Fa la.

Thomas Morley

# On A Fair Morning As I Came By The Way

On a fair morning, as I came by the way,  
Met I with a merry maid in the merry month of May,  
When a sweet love sings his lovely lay,  
And every bird upon the bush bechirps it up so gay.  
With a heave and ho! with a heave and ho!  
Thy wife shall be thy master, I trow.  
Sing care away, care away, let the world go!  
Hey, lustily, all in a row, all in a row,  
Sing care away, care away, let the world go!

Thomas Morley

# See, See, Mine Own Sweet Jewel

See, see, mine own sweet jewel,  
See what I have here for my darling:  
A robin-redbreast and a starling.  
These I give both, in hope to move thee--  
And yet thou say'st I do not love thee.

Thomas Morley