PERFORMANCE NOTES
FOR
SING WE AND CHANT IT

Thomas Morley
Arranged by Russell Robinson

This popular Renaissance piece (the Renaissance period is generally regarded as being from 1450-1600) was written in 1595 by Thomas Morley (1557-1603) as part of a collection of choral pieces for five voices. Morley was an organist and composer in London and a contemporary of the poet Michael Drayton who is attributed with writing the words for this madrigal.

This arrangement for three part women’s voices has maintained much of the original counterpoint, and the beauty of this timeless piece of music has been preserved.

Utilize vertical vowels so that the choral sound remains free and supported. It might help to sing the entire song on “doo” or “loo” to get the corners of the mouth into. For further ideas regarding vowel production see The Complete Choral Warm-Up Book by Russell Robinson and Jay Althouse (Alfred Publishing Co., Inc. — 1983). In addition, sing all “fa’s” as if they are “echo-fa’s” and the entrances of the “fa la la’s” should be heard for clarity of the counterpoint. Try to give every “fa” a bit of stress and the “la’s” a bit less. As with all Renaissance music, the lines should be sung as the text dictates and without a predominant metered pulse. Although the music should be performed sensitively and with excitement, extreme dynamics should be avoided. Enjoy!

For further study in warm-ups, vocal production and rehearsal techniques in this style, see the madrigal section of:

DEVELOPING TECHNIQUE THROUGH CLASSIC STYLES
by Russell Robinson and Jay Althouse
SATB — 4997
3-Part Mixed — 1991

Other madrigals in this style from Alfred Publishing Co., Inc.: 
ALLEY WHO MUSIC LOVE — Donato/Robinson
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MY BONNIE LASS — Morley/Robinson
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NOW IS THE MONTH OF MAYING — Morley/Robinson
3-Part Mixed — 17674
SING WE AND CHANT IT — Morley/Robinson
SATB — 19872
3-Part Mixed — 5809
SSA — 19263
SING WE AND CHANT IT
for S.A.A. voices, a cappella*

Arranged by
RUSSELL ROBINSON

Music by THOMAS MORLEY (1557-1602)
Words by MICHAEL DRAYTON (1563-1634)

Allegro, in 3 (d = ca. 154)

SOPRANO I
Sing we and chant it while love doth grant it.

SOPRANO II
Sing we and chant it while love doth grant it.

ALTO
Sing we and chant it while love doth grant it.

PIANO

f-p for reserved only

Fa la la la la la la la,
Fa la la la la la la la,
Fa la la la la la la la,

Fa la la la la la la,
Fa la la la la la la,
Fa la la la la la

* Also available for S.A.T.B., Level Four (19262) and 3-Part Mixed, Level Three (5809)

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All things invite us, now to delight us.

Fa la la la la la la la, fa la la la.

Fa la la la la, fa la la la la.

Fa la la la la, fa la la la la.

Fa la la la, fa la la.
Hence care be packing, no mirth be lacking;

let spare no treasure to live in pleasure.