

Hey down, sing ye now after me

Edited by Jason Smart

Anon. (c.1588)

Mean or Instrument The plain song.

Bass 1 Hei down, down, down, down, sing ye nowe af - ter

Bass 2

Bass 3

Bass 4

4

me: la mi sol re fa, so shall we well a -

The musical score is written for five parts: 'Mean or Instrument', 'Bass 1', 'Bass 2', 'Bass 3', and 'Bass 4'. The key signature has one flat (B-flat) and the time signature is 4/2. The 'Mean or Instrument' part is a single melodic line. 'Bass 1' has lyrics: 'Hei down, down, down, down, sing ye nowe af - ter'. 'Bass 2', 'Bass 3', and 'Bass 4' are wordless parts. The score is divided into two systems. The first system contains the first three measures. The second system, starting with a measure number '4', contains the next four measures. The lyrics 'me: la mi sol re fa, so shall we well a -' are aligned under the first four measures of the second system.

Source: Oxford, Christ Church, Mus. 988 (the Bass book from the 'Dow Partbooks', c.1581–8), p.180.

The form of bass clef used in the manuscript identifies this round as one of the later additions to Dow's partbooks. It appears on the last page of the Bass book after two blank pages. The manuscript gives only one iteration of the round (bars 1–35 of Bass 1) followed by one iteration of the rising and falling hexachord (the wordless top part). At the end of the Bass the return to the beginning is cued together with the words 'up supra'. The only clues that the piece is a canon are this cue and the signa congruentiae shown in the score. There is no indication of how many voices are needed. Nor is there any instruction as to how to perform 'The plain song'. Probably it was intended for an instrument, but singing by a female or a boy is also a possibility, in which case the hexachord syllables could be sung: 'Ut re mi fa sol la, la sol fa mi re ut'. The piece is presented as a perpetual round without any prescribed ending. However all voices must end together if inverted harmony is to be avoided. Two complete performances of the round by Bass 4 seems quite long enough. The final bar in the score is of course editorial. In the text, the round and the square that need appropriate tuning refer to the accidentals for B flat and B natural respectively.

8

- gree. Take hede to yor tyme and rest as you finde; _____ the

Hei down, down, down, down, sing ye nowe af - ter me:

12

rownd and the square must be tunde in their kinde. O, _____ well song my ladds! I

la mi sol re fa, so shall we well a - gree.

Hei down,

16

saie we ar as good by night as by daie: la mi sol

Take hede to yor tyme and rest as you finde; _____ the rownd and the square must be

down, down, down, sing ye nowe af - ter me: la mi sol re

20

re fa, let us be me - ry here as long tyme as we may,
 tunde in their kinde. O, well song my ladds! I saie we ar as
 fa, so shall we well a - gree. Take hede to yor
 Hei down, down, down, down, sing

24

for tyme tru - ly pass - eth a-way. Hey ho, hey ho, hey ho, hey
 good by night as by daie: la mi sol re fa, let
 tyme and rest as you finde; the rownd and the square must be tunde in their kinde. O,
 ye nowe af - ter me: la mi sol re fa, so shall

28

down, down, down. Hei down, down, down, down, sing ye nowe af - ter
 us be me - ry here as long tyme as we may, for tyme tru - ly
 well song my ladds! I saie we ar as good by night
 we well a - gree. Take hede to yor tyme and rest as you

32

me: la mi sol re fa, so shall we well a -
 pass - eth a-way. Hey ho, hey ho, hey ho, hey down, down, down.
 as by daie: la mi sol re fa, let us be me-ry here as
 finde; the rownd and the square must be tunde in their kinde. O, well song my

36

gree. Take hede to yor tyme and rest as you finde; the
 Hei down, down, down, down, sing ye nowe af - ter me:
 long tyme as we may, for tyme tru - ly pass - eth a - way.
 ladds! I saie we ar as good by night as by daie:

40

rownd and the square must be tunde in their kinde. O, well song my ladds! I
 la mi sol re fa, so shall we well a - gree.
 Hey ho, hey ho, hey ho, hey down, down, down. Hei down,
 la mi sol re fa, let us be me-ry here as long tyme

44

saie we ar as good by night as by daie: la mi sol
 Take hede to yor tyme and rest as you finde; the rownd and the square must be
 down, down, down, sing ye nowe af - ter me: la mi sol re
 as we may, for tyme tru - ly pass - eth a-way. Hey ho, hey ho,

48

re fa, let us be me - ry here as long tyme as we may,
 tunde in their kinde. O, well song my ladds! I saie we ar as
 fa, so shall we well a - gree. Take hede to yor
 hey ho, hey down, down, down. Hei down, down, down, down, sing

52

for tyme tru - ly pass - eth a-way. Hey ho, hey ho, hey ho, hey
 good by night as by daie: la mi sol re fa, let
 tyme and rest as you finde; the rownd and the square must be tunde in their kinde. O,
 ye nowe af - ter me: la mi sol re fa, so shall

56

down, down, down. Hei down, down, down, down, sing ye nowe af - ter
us be me - ry here as long tyme as we may, for tyme tru - ly
well song my ladds! I saie we ar as good by night
we well a - gree. Take hede to yor tyme and rest as you

60

me: la mi sol re fa, so shall we well a -
pass - eth a-way. Hey ho, hey ho, hey ho, hey down, down, down.
as by daie: la mi sol re fa, let us be me - ry here as
finde; the rownd and the square must be tunde in their kinde. O, well song my

64

- gree. Take hede to yor tyme and rest as you finde; the
Hei down, down, down, down, sing ye nowe af - ter me:
long tyme as we may, for tyme tru - ly pass - eth a-way.
ladds! I saie we ar as good by night as by daie:

68

rownd and the square must be tunde in their kinde. O, well song my
la mi sol re fa, so shall we well a -
Hey ho, hey ho, hey ho, hey down, down, down.
la mi sol re fa, let us be me - ry here as

71

ladds! I saie we ar as good by night as by daie:
- gree. Take hede to yor tyme and rest as you finde; the
Hei down, down, down, down, sing ye nowe af - ter me:
long tyme as we may, for tyme tru - ly pass - eth a - way.

75

la mi sol re fa, let us be me - ry here as long
rownd and the square must be tunde in their kinde. O, well song my ladds!
la mi sol re fa, so shall we well a - gree.
Hey ho, hey ho, hey ho, hey down, down, down. [down.]