

Voices 1 2 (3) (4)  
(Voices 5 6)  
(Piano)

## 32. Sumer is icumen in

Anon.  
modern English paraphrase by Alan Bullard

Anon. 13th cent.  
or possibly by John of Fonsete  
with piano part by ALAN BULLARD (b. 1947)

**Joyfully** ♩. = *c.* 92

VOICES 1 & 2

VOICES 3 & 4

PIANO

*p cresc.*

5 *f*

Sing cu - cu nu, sing cu - cu,  
Sing cuck - oo, now sing cuck - oo,

*f*

Sing cu - cu, sing cu - cu nu,  
Sing cuck - oo, sing cuck - oo, now

*f*

The musical score is written in G major (one sharp) and 6/8 time. It begins with a tempo marking of 'Joyfully' and a quarter note equal to approximately 92 beats per minute. The piano part starts with a piano (*p*) dynamic and a crescendo (*cresc.*). The vocal parts are arranged in two systems. The first system shows the vocal lines with lyrics: 'Sing cu - cu nu, sing cu - cu, Sing cuck - oo, now sing cuck - oo,'. The second system continues the lyrics: 'Sing cu - cu, sing cu - cu nu, Sing cuck - oo, sing cuck - oo, now'. The piano accompaniment consists of a rhythmic pattern of eighth and sixteenth notes in the right hand and a bass line in the left hand.

This round may be performed in two, three, or four parts, choosing any suitable vocal groupings.

If sung in two parts, follow the Voice 1 and 2 indications (thus the melody is sung by all in unison for the first verse). For the three-part version, omit Voice 4.

The piano part can be omitted for the three-part or four-part version. In this case, two more voice parts may optionally sing bars 5–8 repeated throughout, to form an ostinato.

9

(8) Su - mer is i - cum - en in, Lhu - de sing cu - cu;  
Sum - mer is a - com - ing in, Loud - ly sing cuck - oo;

(8) sing cu - cu,  
sing cuck - oo, Su - mer is i - cum - en in,  
Sum - mer is a - com - ing in,

13

(8) Grow - eth sed and blow - eth med And springth the wud e - nu,  
Seed - lings grow and breez - es blow And all is fresh and new,

(8) Lhu - de sing cu - cu;  
Loud - ly sing cuck - oo; Grow - eth sed and blow - eth med And  
Seed - lings grow and breez - es blow And

17

*mf*

(8) Sing cu - cu. A - we blet - eth af - ter lomb, Lhouth  
Sing cuck - oo. Bleat - ing sheep and live - ly lambs, And

(8) springth the wud e - nu,  
all is fresh and new, Sing cu - cu.  
Sing cuck - oo.

*mf*

21

af - ter cal - ve cu. Bul - loc stert - eth, buck - e vert - eth,  
cat - tle low - ing too. Calves are jump - ing, bucks ga-lumph - ing,

*mf*

A - we blet - eth af - ter lomb, Lhouth af - ter cal - ve cu.  
Bleat - ing sheep and live - ly lambs, And cat - tle low - ing too.

25

Mu - rie sing cu - cu. Cu - cu, cu - cu  
Mer - ry sing cuck - oo. Cuck - oo, cuck - oo,

*f*

Bul - loc stert - eth, buck - e vert - eth, Mu - rie sing cu - cu.  
Calves are jump - ing, bucks ga-lumph - ing, Mer - ry sing cuck - oo.

29

wel sing-es thu cu - cu, Ne swik thu na - ver nu.  
mer - ri - ly sing cuck - oo, And all is born a - new.

Cu - cu, cu - cu wel sing-es thu cu - cu, Ne  
Cuck - oo, Cuck - oo, mer - ri - ly sing cuck - oo, And