

A
GENERAL HISTORY

O F

M U S I C.

FROM THE

EARLIEST AGES to the PRESENT PERIOD.

B Y

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VOLUME THE SECOND.

L O N D O N,

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MDCCLXXXII.

CANON, from an ancient MS. in the British Museum.

Sumer is i-cumen in lude fing Cuc-cu

Sumer is i-cumen in

Sing cuc-cu nu Sing cuc-cu

Sing cuc-cu Sing cuc-cu nu

groweth fed and bloweth med and springeth the wde nu.

lhude fing cuc-cu groweth fed and bloweth med and

Sumer is i-cumen in lhude fing cuc-cu

Sumer is i-cumen in

fing cuc-cu nu fing cuc-cu

fing cuc-cu nu

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The musical score consists of two systems, each with six staves. The first system contains the following lyrics:
 fmg cuc—cu Awe bleteth after lomb lhouth
 fpringeth the wde nu. Sing cuc—cu
 groweth fed and bloweth med and fpringeth the wde nu.
 Lhude fmg cuc—cu groweth fed and bloweth med and
 Sing cuc—cu nu Sing cuc—cu
 Sing cuc—cu Sing cuc—cu nu

The second system contains the following lyrics:
 af-ter calve cu Bulluc flerteth bucke
 Awe bleteth after lomb lhouth after calve cu.
 Sing cuc—cu Awe bleteth af-ter
 fpringeth wde nu Sing cuc—cu
 Sing cuc—cu nu Sing cuc—cu
 Sing cuc—cu Sing cuc—cu

The notation includes treble and bass clefs, a key signature of one flat (B-flat), and various musical symbols such as notes, rests, and slurs. The lyrics are placed below the corresponding staves.

verteth, murie fing cuc—cu cuc—cu

Bulluc ferteth bucke verteth murie fing cuc—

Lomb louth after calve cu Bulluc ferteth

Awe bleteth after Lomb louth after calve

Sing cuc—cu nu Sing cuc—

nu Sing cuc—cu Sing cuc—

cuc—cu well sings the cuc—cu ne fwik thu

—cu cuc—cu cuc—cu wel sings

bucke verteth murie fing cuc—cu cu

cu Bulluc ferteth Bucke verteth murie

cu. Sing cuc—cu nu Sing

cu nu Sing cuc—cu Sing

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naver nu Sumer is i-cumen in
 fings thu cuccu ne fwik thu naver nu
 cu cu-cu well fings the cuc-cu ne fwik
 fing cuc-cu cuc-cu cu-cu
 cuc-cu nu Sing cuc-cu

Lhude fing cuc-cu Groweth fed and bloweth
 Sumer is i-cu-men in Lhude fing cuc-cu
 thu naver nu Sumer is i-cu-men
 wel fings the cuc-cu ne fwik thu na-ver nu.
 Sing cuc-cu Sing cuc-cu
 Sing cuc-cu nu Sing cuc-cu

med and spring'th the wde nu.

Groweth fed and bloweth.

in Lhude fing cuc—cu.

Sumer is i—cu—men.

nu fing cuc—cu.

Sing cuc—cu.

The following seems to be the true import of the words.

Summer is a-coming in,
 Loud sing cuckow.
 Groweth feed,
 And bloweth mead,
 And springeth the wood new.
 Ewe bleateth after lamb ;
 Loweth after calf, cow ;
 Bullock sterteth (r),
 Buckè verteth (s),
 Merry sing cuckow.
 Well sing'it thou cuckow,
 Nor cease thou ever, now (r).