

## Thomas Ravenscroft's Drinking Songs... and Rounds

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<http://www.pbm.com/~lindahl/ravenscroft/>  
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Thomas Ravenscroft is the first known publisher of English folk music. He published 3 books of it in 1609 and 1611, a book of madrigals in 1614, and a Psalter (music to sing the Psalms to) in 1621. The folk music books are most interesting to us scurrilous types, and they contain both rounds and songs. Some of these rounds, by the way, also appear in a 1580 manuscript, called "MS KC1", or the "Lant Manuscript". Lant contains 57 rounds; 48 of them appear, mostly slightly changed, in Ravenscroft's first 3 books.

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### Freemens Songs of 3. Voices.

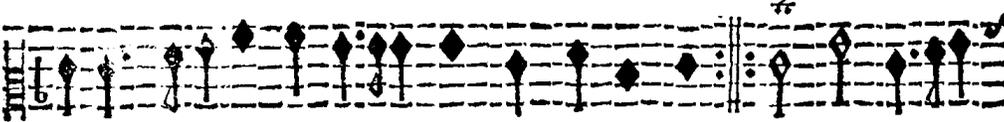
TREBLE.



**O**f all the birds that e-uer I see, the Owle is the fayrest  
For all the day long she sits in a tree, and when the night comes



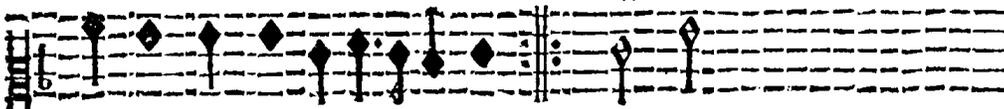
in her de gree, Te whow, fir knaue to thou, this song is well sung,  
away flies she,



I make you a vow, and he is a knaue that drinketh now. Nofe, nofe, nofe,



nofe, and who gaue thee that iolly red nofe ? Nutmegs and cloues,



and that gaue thee thy iolly red nofe. Nofe, nofe :

Of All the Birds is one of those subtle songs: you don't realize they're all drunk until the middle. Although this is a 4 part song, we usually cheat and sing just one line.

"Martin said to his man", on the other hand, is unadulterated, stumbling, blind drunkenness, although you might think it' s a children' s song:



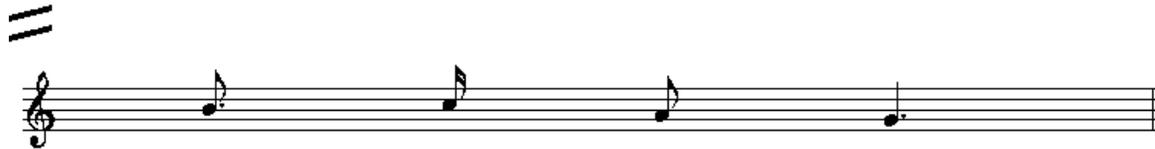
Mar- tin said to his man fie, man fie! Mar- tin said to his man



who's the fool now? Mar- tin said to his man Fill thouthecupand I the can,



Thouhast well drun- kenman, who's the fool now? Thouhast well drun- kenman,



who's the fool now?

2. I see a sheep shearing corn... And a couckold blow his horn,

3. I see a man in the Moone... Clowting of Saint Peters shoone, [ fixing St. Peter' s shoe ]

4. I see a hare chase a hound... Twenty mile about the ground,

5. I see a goose ring a hog... And a snayle that did bite a dog,

6. I see a mouse catch the cat... And the cheese to eat the rat,

[ 7. I saw a maid milk a bull... Every stroke a bucket-full, ]

[ this last verse is not in Ravenscroft, but does appear on the CD *Music from the time of Elizabeth I* by Christopher Hogwood. Presumably the performers made it up. ]

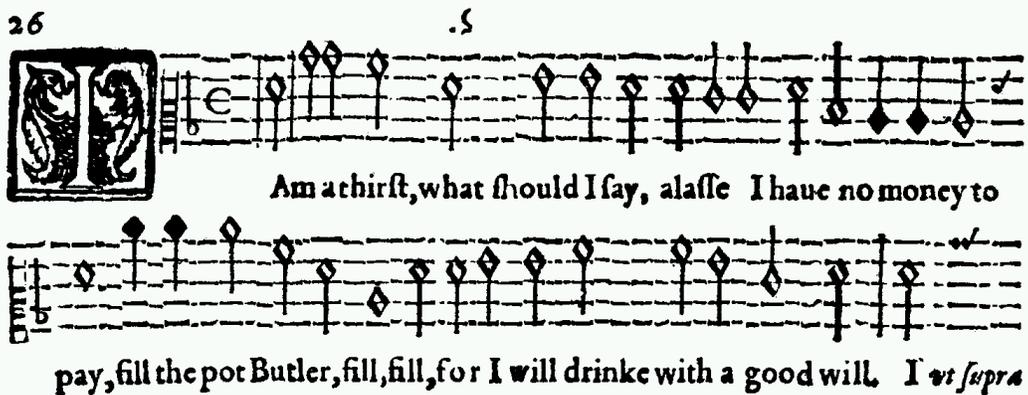
Ravenscroft also has some drinking rounds. You might not think that singing rounds is possible while drunk, but we "play tested" these at Pennsic one long night, and they were a smash hit. Or at least people gave us lots of booze so we would leave.



Goe no more to Brain-ford, vn-lesse you loue a  
 Punke, for that wick-ed sinne-full towne hath made  
 me drunke,  
 come fol-low me.

Punk == prostitute, according to Shakespeare.

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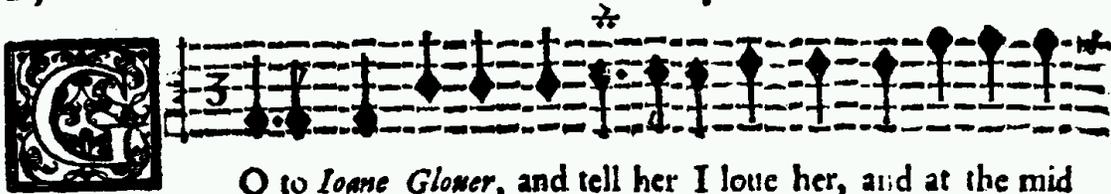


Am a thirst, what should I say, alasse I haue no money to  
 pay, fill the pot Butler, fill, fill, for I will drinke with a good will. *I vs supra*

I am a thirst, what should I say, alasse I haue no money to pay, fill the pot Butler, fill, fill, for I will drinke with a good will.

Once you' re drunk, the next item of business is, of course, enamouring.

## 25 Rounds or Catches of 4. Voices.



O to *Ioane Glouer*, and tell her I loue her, and at the mid



of the Moone I will come to her.

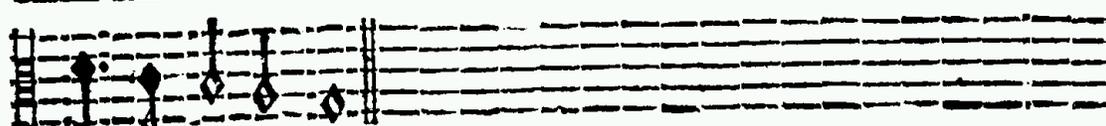
Go to Joane Glouer, and tell her I loue her, and at the mid of the Moone I will come to her.

When sending messages doesn' t work, personal pleading sometimes does:

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My loue, lou' st thou mee? then quickly come and saue



him that dyes for thee.

O My loue, lou' st thou mee? then quickly come and saue him that dyes for thee.