

Canterbury Prologue

Words from the Prologue to The Canterbury Tales
by Geoffrey Chaucer

Music by Jeremy Rawson

Gently - not too fast (♩ = 90)

Soprano

Alto

Tenor

Bass

Piano (for rehearsal)

(oo) Whan that Whan that

(oo) Whan that Whan that

(oo) (oo)

(oo) (oo)

7

App-rill with his shaw-res sor - te (oo) And

Ap-rill with his shou-res soo - te (oo) And

(oo) The droch - te of March hath pair-sed to the raw - te (oo)

(oo) The drogh - te of March hath per-sed to the roo - te

(oo) of March hath pair-sed to the raw - te (oo)

(oo) of March hath per-sed to the roo - te

11

bar - thed av-ry vine-a in swich lic - cor (mm) *pp*
 bath - ed ev-ery veyn-e in swich li - cour

bar - thed av-ry vine-a in swich lic - cor *mp* en - zhon-dred is the flaw - e, is the
 bath - ed ev-ery veyn-e in swich li - cour en - gen - dred is the flour - e, is the

mp Of which vair - too *pp*
 Of which ver - tu

en - zhon-dred is the flaw - e, is the
 en - gen - dred is the flour - e, is the

16

Wharn Ze - phee - rus ake with his sway - - - te brayth In - *p*
 Whan Ze - phi - rus eke with his swee - - - te breath In -

flaw - e (oo) In - *p*
 flour - e In -

Wharn Ze - phee - rus ake with his sway - - - te brayth In - *p*
 Whan Ze - phi - rus eke with his swee - - - te breath In -

flaw - e (oo) In-speer-red *p*
 flour - e In - spir - ed

21

speered in holt and hayth Hath
 spir - ed in holt and heeth Hath

speered in holt and hayth and the yong - e son - ne
 spir - ed in holt and heeth and the yong - e son - ne

speered, The ton - dre crop - pes
 spir - ed The ten - dre crop - pes

hath in av - ry holt and hayth Hath
 hath in ev - ery holt and heeth Hath

27

rit. *a tempo*

on the Rarm his harl - fe course y - ron - ne
 on the Ram his hal - fe cours y - ron - ne

Hath his harl - - fe course y - ron - ne
 Hath his hal - - fe cours y - ron - ne

Hath on the Rarm his course y - ron - ne
 Hath on the Ram his cours y - ron - ne

his harl - fe course y - ron - ne
 his hal - fe cours y - ron - ne

rit. *a tempo*

30

pp (oo) *mp* And small - a
And smal - e

mp (oo) small - a
smal - e

(oo)

(oo)

35

fow-les mar-ken ma - lo - dee - a (oo) *pp* *mp* So
flowe-les ma - ken me - lo - dy - e So

fow-les mar-ken ma - lo - dee - a (oo) *pp* *mp* So
flowe-les ma - ken me - lo - dy - e So

(oo) *mp* That slay - pen all the night with ar - pen ee - ya So
That sle - pen al the night with o - pen ye So

(oo) *mp* slay-pen all the night with ar - pen ee - ya So
sle - pen al the night with o - pen ye So

39

prick - eth hem Na - too - ra in hair cou - rar - - zhes
prik - eth hem Na - tur - e in hir co - ra - - ges

prick - eth hem Na - too - ra in hair cou - rar - - zhes
prik - eth hem Na - tur - e in hir co - ra - - ges

prick - eth hem Na - too - ra in hair cou - rar - - zhes
prik - eth hem Na - tu - re in hir co - ra - - ges

prick - eth in hair cou - rar - - zhes
prik - eth in hir co - ra - - ges

42

Than-ne lon-gen folk to gorn on pil - gra - mar - - zhes.
Than-ne lon-gen folk to goon on pil - gra - ma - - ges.

Than-ne lon-gen folk to gorn on pil - gra - mar - - zhes.
Than-ne lon-gen folk to goon on pil - gra - ma - - ges.

Than-ne lon-gen folk to gorn on pil - gra - mar - - zhes.
Than-ne lon-gen folk to goon on pil - gra - ma - - ges.

Than-ne lon-gen folk to gorn on pil - gra - mar - - zhes.
Than-ne lon-gen folk to goon on pil - gra - ma - - ges.

Please go to <http://music.rawson.me.uk> to find other music by Jeremy Rawson and to provide feedback, including information about concerts in which this music is performed.

ORIGINAL MIDDLE ENGLISH

Whan that Aprill, with his shoures soote
The droghte of March hath perced to the roote
And bathed every veyne in swich licour,
Of which vertu engendred is the flour;
Whan Zephirus eek with his sweete breeth
Inspired hath in every holt and heeth
The tendre croppes, and the yonge sonne
Hath in the Ram his halfe cours yronne,
And smale foweles maken melodye,
That slepen al the nyght with open ye
(So priketh hem Nature in hir corages);
Thanne longen folk to goon on pilgrimages

WORD-FOR-WORD IN MODERN ENGLISH

When April with its showers sweet
The drought of March has pierced to the root
And bathed every vein in such liquor,
Of whose virtue engendered is the flower;
When Zephyrus too with his sweet breath
Has inspired in every grove and heath,
The tender crops; and the young sun
Has in the Ram his half-course run,
And small fowls make melody,
That sleep all the night with open eye
(So Nature pricks them in their hearts);
Then folks long to go on pilgrimages

SENSE-FOR-SENSE TRANSLATION

When in April the sweet showers fall
And pierce the drought of March to the root, and all
The veins are bathed in liquor of such power
As brings about the engendering of the flower,
When also Zephyrus with his sweet breath
Exhales an air in every grove and heath
Upon the tender shoots, and the young sun
His half course in the sign of the Ram has run
And the small fowl are making melody
That sleep away the night with open eye,
(So nature pricks them and their heart engages)
Then folk long to go on pilgrimages.