

PERFORMANCE NOTE

John Farmer was a little-known composer in the Renaissance period (1400-1600). Today we might call him a “one hit wonder,” in that “Fair Phyllis” was really the only “popular” song he wrote, both in his time and today. Little is known about Farmer. We know that he was born around 1570, but there is no documentation of his death. He was an organist in Dublin and later resided in London. We also know that he wrote and published “Fair Phyllis” in his *First Set of English Madrigals* in 1599 and was said to be a contemporary of other madrigal composers, such as the famous Thomas Morley.

“Fair Phyllis” is a fun song (and should be sung that way!) about a girl named Phyllis. In Greek mythology, Phyllis was a girl who turned into an almond tree when she died. Although this song doesn’t refer to that story, it does refer to Phyllis being courted by her suitor, Amyntas. This arrangement has been written in G major, one full step up from the original key of F major, to accommodate the richness of men’s voices. Try to achieve the dynamic contrast throughout the piece and a dance-like feeling in the triple meter section that begins in measure 32. Enjoy!

FAIR PHYLLIS

for T.T.B. voices, a cappella*

Arranged by
RUSSELL ROBINSON

JOHN FARMER (c. 1570-1606)

In a quick four or slow two (♩ = ca. 88) (♩ = ♩ throughout)

TENOR I *f-p*

Fair Phyl - lis I saw sit - ting all a - lone, feed - ing

TENOR II *f-p*

Feed - ing

BASS *f-p*

Feed - ing

In a quick four or slow two (♩ = ca. 88) (♩ = ♩ throughout)

PIANO *f-p*
(for rehearsal only)

4

her flock near to the moun - tain side. Fair side. The

her flock near to the moun - tain side. side.

her flock near to the moun - tain side. side.

1. *p* 2. *mf*

1. *p* 2. *mf*

* Also available for 3-part mixed (21647).

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8

shep - herds knew not, they knew not whith - er she was gone.

mf The shep - herds knew not, they knew not

mf The shep - herds knew not, whith - er she was gone, they knew not

11

12

whith - er she was gone. But af - ter her suit - or, her suit -

whith - er she was gone. But af - ter her suit - or, her suit -

whith - er she was gone. But af - ter her suit - or, her suit -

21

8
 wan - dered, up and down he wan - dered,
 up and down he wan - dered, up
 down he wan - dered, up and down he

24

8
 up and down he wan - dered, up and down he wan -
 and down, up and down he wan - dered, up and down he wan -
 wan - dered, up and down he wan - dered, he wan -

27

dered, while she was miss - ing. When he found

dered, while she was miss - ing. When he, when he found _

dered, while she was miss - ing. When he found _

31

her. *f* O,

her. *mp* O, then they start - ed kiss - ing. *f* O,

her. *mp* O, then they start - ed kiss - ing. *f* O,

35

then they start - ed kiss - ing, a - kiss - ing. O,

then they start - ed kiss - ing, a - kiss - ing. O,

then they start - ed kiss - ing, a - kiss - ing. O,

39

rit. to end second time 1. then they start - ed kiss - ing. 2. kiss - ing.

rit. to end second time *mf* then they start - ed kiss - ing. Up and down he kiss - ing.

rit. to end second time then they start - ed kiss - ing. kiss - ing.