

Sumer is icumen in.

(Taken from a work under this title by Jamieson B. Hurry, M.A., M.D.).

In the British Museum is treasured a M.S. which contains a famous Canon written by a monk at Reading Abbey about the year 1240. It has been described as the most remarkable ancient composition in existence and is the earliest Canon known, and one of the earliest examples of English secular music. It forms a part-song for six voices.

Svmer is icumen in,	Summer is come in,
Lhude sing cuccu!	Loud sing, cuckoo!
Groweth sed, and bloweth med,	Groweth seed, and bloweth mead,
And springeth the wde nu—	And spring'th the wood now,
Sing cuccu!	Sing Cuckoo.
Awe bleteth after lomb,	Ewe bleateth after lamb,
Lhouth after calue cu;	Loweth after calf (the) cow;
Bulluc sterteth, bucke verteth,	Bullock starteth, buck verteth
Murie sing cuccu!	Merry sing, Cuckoo,
Cuccu, cuccu!	Cuckoo, Cuckoo!
Wel singes thu cuccu,	Well sing'st thou, Cuckoo,
Ne swik thu nauer nu.	Nor cease thou never now.