

15. Sumer if icumen in

From the manuscript:

British Library MS Harley 978

This canon may be sung by four companions, but ought not to be sung by fewer than three, or two at the least, in addition to the two who sing the pes. It is sung thus: one singer begins with those who maintain the pes, the others being silent, and when he comes to the first note after the cross-sign another begins, and so with the other singers. Each one shall be silent at the written rests, and not elsewhere, for the time of one long note.

Su - mer if i - cu - men in, lhu - de *f*ing cuc - cu.
 Grow - ep *f*ed and blow - ep med and *f*pring þe wu - de nu.
 Sing cuc - cu. A - we ble - teþ af - ter lomb, lhouþ
 af - ter cal - ve cu. Bul - luc *f*ter - teþ, buck - e ver - teþ
 mu - rie *f*ing cuc - cu. Cuc - cu cuc - cu,
 wel *f*ing - ef þu cuc - cu ne *f*wik þu na - ver nu.

Pes

Sing cuc - cu nu, Sing cuc - cu.
 Sing cuc - cu, Sing cuc - cu nu,

One repeats this as often as necessary, making a rest at the end.

One sings this, making a rest in the middle and not at the end, but immediately repeating the beginning.

‡ Small notes correspond to changes made in the manuscript at a later date.