

## May Day Carol (Essex)

The musical score is written on a single staff in treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a 4/4 time signature. The melody consists of a series of quarter and eighth notes, with some rests. The lyrics are printed below the notes, with hyphens indicating syllables that span across notes. The score includes repeat signs at the beginning and end of the first line, and a double bar line with repeat dots at the end of the second line. A 6/8 time signature change is indicated at the start of the fifth line.

I been a - ram - bling all this night, And some part of this day;  
And now re - turn - ing back a - gain I brought you a gar - land gay;  
A gar - land gay I brought you here, And at your door I stand,  
'Tis noth - ing but a sprout but 'tis well bud - ded out, The work of Our Lord's hand.  
And turn to the Lord a - - gain. Why don't you do as we have done,  
The ve - ry first day of May \_\_\_\_\_ And from my pa - - rents  
I have come, And would no long - - er stay.

I been a-rambling all this night,  
And some time of this day;  
And now returning back again  
I brought you a garland gay.

A garland gay I have brought you here,  
And at your door I stand,  
'Tis nothing but a sprout but 'tis well budded out,  
The work of Our Lord's hand.

So dear, so dear, as Christ loved us,  
And for our sins was slain,  
Christ bids us turn from wickedness,  
And turn to the Lord again.

Why don't you do as we have done,  
The very first day of May,  
And from my parents I have come  
And would no longer stay.