

# It was a time when silly Bees could speak

John Dowland

**Cantus**

It was a time when sil - ly Bees could  
 Then thus I buzzed, when time no sap would  
 My liege, Gods grant thy time may ne - ver

**Altus**

It was a time, a time when sil - ly Bees could  
 Then thus I buzzed, I buzzed, when time no sap would  
 My liege, Gods grant, Gods grant thy time may ne - ver

**Tenor**

It was a time, a time when sil - ly Bees could  
 Then thus I buzzed, I buzzed, when time no sap would  
 My liege, Gods grant, Gods grant thy time may ne - ver

**Bassus**

It was a time, a time when sil - ly Bees could  
 Then thus I buzzed, I buzzed, when time no sap would  
 My liege, Gods grant, Gods grant thy time may ne - ver

④

speak, And in that time I was a sil - ly  
 give, Why should this bles - sed to time to me be  
 end, And yet vouch - safe to hear my 'plaint of

speak, And in that time I was, I was a sil - ly  
 give, Why should this bles - sed time, this time to me be  
 end, And yet vouch - safe to hear, to hear my 'plaint of

speak, And in that time I was a sil - ly  
 give, Why should this bles - sed to time to me  
 end, And yet vouch - safe to hear my 'plaint of

speak, And in that time I was a sil - ly  
 give, Why should this bles - sed to time to me be  
 end, And yet vouch - safe to hear my 'plaint of

8

Bee, dry, Time, Who fed on this Time, Which fruit - less Flies un - til my heart 'gan break, the la - zy drone doth live, to have a friend,

Bee, dry, Time, Who fed on this Time, Which fruit-less Flies have found to have, to have a friend,

Bee, dry, Time, Who fed on this Time, Which fruit-less Flies have found to have a friend,

Bee, dry, Time, Who fed on this Time, Which fruit-less Flies have found to have a friend,

13

Yet ne - ver found the time would fa - vor me, The wasp, the cast worm, the the gnat, the but - ter - fly, And I cast down when A - to - mies do climb.

Yet ne - ver found the time would fa - vor me, The wasp, the cast worm, the the gnat, the but - ter - fly, And I cast down when A - to - mies do climb.

Yet ne - ver found the time, the time would fa - vor me, The wasp, the cast worm, the the gnat, the but - ter - fly, And I cast down when A - to - mies do climb.

Yet ne - ver found the time gnat, would fa - vor me, The wasp, the cast worm, the the gnat, the but - ter - fly, And I cast down when A - to - mies do climb.

17

Of all the swarm I on - ly did not thrive,  
 Mat - ted with grief, I kneel - ed on my knees,  
 The king re - plied but thus, Peace peev - ish Bee,

Of all the swarm I on - ly, I on - ly did not thrive,  
 Mat - ted with grief, I kneel - ed, I kneel - ed on my knees,  
 The king re - plied but thus, Peace peev - ish, peev-ish Bee,

Of all the swarm, the swarm I on - ly, on - ly did not thrive,  
 Mat - ted with grief, with grief, I kneel - ed, kneel - ed on my knees,  
 The king re - plied, re - plied but thus, Peace peev-ish, peev-ish Bee,

Of all the swarm, the swarm I on - ly, I on - ly did not thrive,  
 Mat - ted with grief, with grief, I kneel - ed, I kneel - ed on my knees,  
 The king re - plied, re - plied but thus, Peace peev - ish, peev-ish Bee,

21

Yet brought I wax and ho - ney to the hive.  
 And thus com - plained un - to the king of Bees.  
 Thou art bound to serve the time, the time not thee.

Yet brought I wax and ho - ney, ho - ney to the hive.  
 And thus com - plained un - to the king, the king of Bees.  
 Thou art bound to serve the time, the time, the time not thee.

Yet brought I wax and ho - ney to the hive.  
 And thus com - plained un - to the king of Bees.  
 Thou art bound to serve the time, the time not thee.

Yet brought I wax and ho - ney to the hive.  
 And thus com - plained un - to the king of Bees.  
 Thou art bound to serve the time, the time not thee.