

Searching for Lambs

traditional English, from Somerset
collected by Cecil Sharp, published 1916

Am Em C

As I went out one May morn - ing, One May morn - ing be -
"I'm going to feed my fa - ther's flock, His young and ten - der
How glo - rious - ly the sun doth shine, How pleas - ant is the

5 G Am F

time, I met a maid, from home had strayed, Just
lambs, That o - ver hills and o - ver dales Lie
air, I'd rath - er rest on a true - love's breast Than

8 Em Am Am Em

as the sun did shine. "What makes you rise so soon, my dear, Your
wait - ing for their dams." "O stay! O stay! you hand - some maid, And
an - y oth - er where. For I am thine, and thou art mine; No

12 C G Am

jour - ney to pur - sue? Your pret - ty lit - tle feet they
rest a mo - ment here, For there is none but
man shall un - com - fort thee; We'll join our hands in

15 F Em Am

tread so sweet, Strike off the morn - ing dew."
you a - lone, That I do love so dear."
wed - ded bands And a - mar - ried we shall be."

One might think that a tune in 5/4 time would be complex enough, without a solitary 3/4 measure appearing in the middle of each verse. (In at least one well-known harp book, for example, two more beats are added so these "odd" measures simply disappear.) When Cecil Sharp first published the song in 1916, however, the 3/4 measures are carefully included. Since he is still regarded as the leading authority on English folk music a hundred years later, we are left with the inevitable conclusion that this is how he first heard it in Somerset, so the song appears here in its original version.