

# Sumer Is Icumen In

(The Cuckoo Song)

2, 3, or 4-part round  
(Start at 2 measure intervals)

English Trad.  
Anon. c. 1260

C Dm C Dm C Dm C Dm

Su - mer is i - cum - en in \_\_\_\_\_, lhu - de sing cuc - cu!

5 C Dm ... (continue as before)

Grow - eth sed and blow - eth med, and spring'th the wu - de nu!

9

Sing, cuc - cu! A - we bleat - eth af - ter lamb, low'th

13

af - ter cal - ve cu! Bul - lock stert - eth, buck - e vert - eth,

17

Mur - ie sing cuc - cu! Cuc - cu, cuc - cu, wel

21 *repeat as required*

sing - es thu, cuc - cu \_\_\_\_\_, ne swik thu na - ver nu!

"Sumer Is Icumen In" is the incipit (first phrase) of a medieval English round (also called a canon or rota). The manuscript in which it is preserved was found at Reading Abbey, about 40 miles west of London, and was copied down between 1261 and 1264. This makes it the earliest known example of 6-part vocal polyphony as well as one of the earliest notated English secular songs (the lyrics are written in the Wessex dialect of Middle English). The manuscript containing this song can be seen at the British Library; a stone relief of the manuscript can be seen at the ruins of Reading Abbey.