

01. A Hunting Song

(1614)

Edward Pearce
(1560-1613)

transcribed by Christian Mondrup, arr. William Melton

Pearce, Edward

(born ca. 1560; buried 15 June 1612 in London)

Reliable details concerning Edward Pearce (variously spelled Pierce, Pearse, Peers, etc.) are few. He first appears in 1568 as a choirboy in Canterbury Cathedral. After a stint as a Gentleman of the Chapel Royal, in 1600 he was named Master of St Paul's where he was highly regarded as a vocal and instrumental pedagogue.

'A Hunting Song' is one of Pearce's few surviving creations, former pupil Thomas Ravenscroft including it in the theoretical treatise *A Briefe Discourse of the True (but Neglected) Use of Charact'ring the Degrees [...] Examples Whereof are Exprest in the Harmony of 4 Voyces* published soon after his teacher's death. The piece begins with calls to begin the hunt, the vocal lines mimicking horn signals to the text, 'Hey trola, there boys there, hoick, whoope, crie there they goe: Boy, winde the horne'. The final section is a thicket of quavers depicting the pack following the scent, the dense counterpoint of the onomatopoeic 'yeeble yabble, gibble gabble' serving to evoke the hounds' 'open mouth and lustie crye'. For modern transcription of Jacobean notation the arranger is indebted to Christian Mondrup (Aarhus), whose edition of *A Briefe Discourse* can be found at [http://imslp.org/wiki/A_Briefe_Discourse_\(Ravenscroft,_Thomas\)](http://imslp.org/wiki/A_Briefe_Discourse_(Ravenscroft,_Thomas)). A facsimile of the 1614 original can be viewed at <http://www.pbm.com/~lindahl/ravenscroft/brief/>

Text by William Melton