

Bedfordshire May Day Carol.

Allegretto.

legato

I've been ram - bling all the... night, And the

best part of the day; And now I am re - turn - ing...

back a - gain, I have brought you a branch of..... May.

1

I've been rambling all the night,
 And the best part of the day;
 And now I am returning back again,
 I have brought you a branch of May.

2

A branch of May, my dear, I say,
 Before your door I stand,
 It's nothing but a sprout, but it's well budded out,
 By the work of our Lord's hand.

3

Go down in your dairy and fetch me a cup,
 A cup of your sweet cream,*
 And, if I should live to tarry in the town,
 I will call on you next year.

4

The hedges and the fields they are so green,
 As green as any leaf,
 Our Heavenly Father waters them
 With His Heavenly dew so sweet.

5

When I am dead and in my grave,
 And covered with cold clay,
 The nightingale will sit and sing,
 And pass the time away.

6

Take a Bible in your hand,
 And read a chapter through,
 And, when the day of Judgment comes,
 The Lord will think on you.

7

I have a bag on my right arm,
 Draws up with a silken string,
 Nothing does it want but a little silver
 To line it well within.

8

And now my song is almost done,
 I can no longer stay,
 God bless you all both great and small,
 I wish you a joyful May.

[Sung near Hinwick.]

* ? cheer.