

**Loreena Mccennitt****"The Seasons"**

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Traditional English (nineteenth century)

Come all you lads and lasses, I'd have you give  
attention  
To these few lines I'm about to write here.  
'Tis of the four seasons of the year that I shall mention,  
The beauty of all things doth appear.  
And now you are young and all in your prosperity,  
Come cheer up your hearts and revive like the spring.  
Join off in pairs like the birds in February  
That St. Valentine's Day it forth do bring.

Then cometh Spring, which all the land doth nourish;  
The fields are beginning to be decked with green.  
The trees put forth their buds and the blossoms they  
do flourish,  
And the tender blades of corn on the earth are to be  
seen.  
Don't you see the little lambs by the dams a-playing?  
The cuckoo is singing in the shady grove.  
The flowers they are springing, the maids they go a-  
Maying,  
In love all hearts seem now to move.

Next cometh Autumn with the sun so hot and piercing;  
The sportsman goes forth with his dog and his gun  
to fetch down the woodcock, the partridge and the  
pheasant,  
For health and for profit as well as for fun.  
Behold with loaded apple-trees the farmer is  
befriended,  
They will fill up his casks that have long laid dry.  
All nature seems to weary now, her task is nearly  
ended,  
And more of the seasons will come by and by.

When night comes on with song and tale we pass the  
wintry hours;  
By keeping up a cheerful heart we hope for better days.  
We tend the cattle, sow the seed, give work unto the  
ploughers,

With patience wait till winter yields before the sun's fair  
rays.  
And so the world goes round and round, and every  
time and season  
With pleasure and with profit crowns the passage of  
the year.  
And so through every time of life, to him who acts with  
reason  
The beauty of all things doth appear.

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