THE THREE RAVENS Thomas Ravenscroft

1. There were three ravens sat on a tree, down a down, hey down a  
 down,  
 There were three ravens sat on a tree, with a down,  
 There were three ravens sat on a tree,   
 They were as black as they might be.  
 With a down, derry derry derry down down.

2. The one of them said to his mate, down a down, hey down a down,  
 The one of them said to his mate, with a down,  
 The one of them said to his mate,  
 Where shall we our breakfast take ?  
 With a down, derry derry derry down down.

3. Down in yonder greeny field, down a down, hey down a   
 down,  
 Down in yonder greeny field, with a down,  
 Down in yonder greeny field,  
 There lies a knight slain under his shield,  
 With a down, derry derry derry down down.

4. His hounds they lie down at his feet, down a down, hey down a   
 down,  
 His hounds they lie down at his feet, with a down,  
 His hounds they lie down at his feet,  
 So well they can their master keep,  
 With a down, derry derry derry down down.

5. His hawks they fly so eagerly, down a down, hey down a down,  
 His hawks they fly so eagerly, with a down,  
 His hawks they fly so eagerly,  
 There is no foul dare him come nigh,   
 With a down, derry derry derry down down.

6. Down there comes a fallow doe, down a down, hey down a down,  
 Down there comes a fallow doe, with a down,  
 Down there comes a fallow doe,  
 As great with young as she might go,  
 With a down, derry derry derry down down.

7. She lifted up his bloody head, down a down, hey down a down,  
 She lifted up his bloody head, with a down,  
 She lifted up his bloody head,  
 And kissed his wounds that were so red,  
 With a down, derry derry derry down down.

8. She got him up upon her back, down a down, hey down a down,  
 She got him up upon her back, with a down,  
 She got him up upon her back,  
 And carried him to earthen lake,  
 With a down, derry derry derry down down.

9. She buried him before the prime, down a down, hey down a down,  
 She buried him before the prime, with a down,  
 She buried him before the prime,  
 She was dead herself ere evensong time,  
 With a down, derry, derry derry down down.

10. God grant every gentleman, down a down, hey down a down,  
 God grant every gentleman, with a down,  
 God grant every gentleman  
 Such hawks, such hounds and such a leman,  
 With a down, derry derry derry down down.

*Melismata, 1611*