XVIII. It was a time when silly Bees could speake,

Cantus.

John Dowland

1. It was a time when silly Bees could speake, And in that time I was a silly Bee, Who fed on Time un-
2. Then thus I buz'd, when time no sap would give, Why should this bless-ed time to me be drie, Sith by this Time the safe to heare my plaint of Time, Which fruit-lesse Flies have
3. My liege, Gods graunt thy time may ne- ver end, And yet vouch-
time I was a sil-lie Bee, Who fed on Time un-

 til my heart gan break, Yet ne-ver found the la-zie drone doth live, The waspe, the worme, the found to have a friend, And I cast downe when time would fa-vour mee. Of all the swar-me I
gnat, the but-ter-flie, Mat-ed with griefe, I A-to-mies do clime. The king re-plied but one-ly did not thrive, Yet brought I waxe and hone-ry to the hive. kneel-ed on my knees, And thus com-plain’d un-to the king of Bees. thus, Peace pee-vish Bee, Th’art bound to serve the time, the time not thee.
XVIII. It was a time when silly Bees could speake,

Altus.  

John Dowland

1. It was a time, a time, when silly Bees could speake,
2. Then thus I buz'd, I buz'd, when time no sap would give,
3. My liege, Gods graunt, Gods graunt, thy time may never end,

And in that time I was, I was a silly Bee,
Why should this blessed time, this time to me be drie,
And yet vouch-safe to heare, to heare my plaint of Time,

Who fed on Time until my heart, my heart gan break, Yet never
Sith by this Time the lazie drone, the drone doth live, The waspe, the
Which fruit-lesse Flies have found to have, to have a friend, And I cast

found the time would fa-vour mee. Of all the swar-me I one-ly, I one-ly
wor-me, the gnat, the but-ter-flie, Mat-ed with griefe, I kneel-ed, I kneel-ed
downe when A-to-mies do clime. The king re-plied but thus, Peace pee-vish,

did not thrive, Yet brought I waxe and ho-ny, ho-ny to the hive.
on my knees, And thus com-pla-int un-to the king, the king of Bees.
pee-vish Bee, Th'art bound to serve the time, the time, the time not thee.
XVIII. It was a time when silly Bees could speake,

Tenor.  

1. It was a time, a time when silly Bees could speake,
2. Then thus I buz’d, I buz’d, when time no sap would give,
3. My liege, Gods graunt, Gods graunt thy time may never end,

And in that time I was a sil-lie Bee, Who fed on Time un-
Why should this bless-ed time to me be drie, Sith by this Time the
And yet vouch-safe to heare my plaint of Time, Which fruit-lesse Flies have

til my heart gan break, Yet ne-ver found the time, the time would fa-
la-zie drone doth live, The waspe, the worme, the gnat, the gnat, the but-
found to have a friend, And I cast downe, cast downe when A-
mee. Of all the swarme, the swarmeI one-
flie, Mat-ed with griefe, with griefe, I kneel-ed, kneel-ed on my knees, 
clime. The king re-

Yet brought I waxe and ho-
And thus com-plain’d un-
Th’art bound to serve the time, 

clime.
plies but thus, Peace pee-vish, pee-vish Bee, 

nely, one-ly did not thrive, 
clime.

nely to the hive. 

to the king of Bees. 

the time not thee.
XVIII. It was a time when silly Bees could speake,  
Bassus. 

1. It was a time, a time when silly Bees could speake,  
2. Then thus I buzd, I buzd, when time no sap would give,  
3. My liege, Gods graunt, Gods graunt thy time may never end,  

And in that time I was a sil-lie Bee, Who fed on Time un-
Why should this bless-ed time to me be drie, Sith by this Time the
And yet vouch-safe to heare my plaint of Time, Which fruit-lesse Flies have

til my heart gan break, Yet ne-ver found the time would fa-vour
la-zie drone doth live, The waspe, the worme, the gnat, the but-
found to have a friend, And I cast downe when A-
mee. Of all the swarme, the swarme I one-
flie, Mat-ed with griefe, with griefe, I kneel-ed, I kneel-
clime. The king re-plied, re-plied but thus, Peace pee-
did not thrive, Yet brought I waxe and ho-
nee to the hive.  
on my knees, And thus com-plaind un-
pee-vish Bee, Th'art bound to serve the time, the time not thee.

¹The bass part is written with two flats in the key signature, where the others have only 1.
²The facsimile has dotted quarter quarter here.