

Cuckoo

Benjamin Britten (1913-1976), original text by Jane Taylor (1783-1824)

This version by Cosmo Sheldrake, Arr. Sorrel Wilde

Cuckoo, what do you do? X2

In April, I open my bill, in May, I sing night and day,

In June, I change my tune, July, far off I fly,

In August away...In August away....

I must...

Cuckoo...cuckoo what do you do?

Cuckoos are native to Britain, their song changes during the year, starting in early spring with a minor third and then later in the year the call sounds more like a perfect fourth. This song was created by Benjamin Britten for the school he worked at and the version by Cosmo Sheldrake inspired this arrangement.