



# Il Est Bel et Bon

Words and Music by **PIERRE PASSEREAU**  
Arranged by **RUSSELL ROBINSON**

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# About the Arranger



Dr. Russell L. Robinson, Emeritus Professor and Head of Music Education at the University of Florida, has made over 300 appearances as a conductor, speaker, consultant and presenter at festivals, workshops, honor choirs, all-state choirs and state, regional, national and international conferences in the US, Europe, Asia, Africa, Central America, South America, Mexico, Canada, the Middle East, and Australia as well as conducting venues, which include: Carnegie Hall, Lincoln Center, the Kennedy Center, Boston's Symphony Hall, and the White House. Dr. Robinson was the 2016 inductee into the Florida Music Educators Association (FMEA) Hall of Fame and is a Past President of FMEA. He is a published author, composer, and arranger with over 500 publications in print, including choral compositions, arrangements, articles, books, and instructional DVD's. His website is: [www.RussellRobinson.com](http://www.RussellRobinson.com)

## Il Est Bel Et Bon

SSA voices, with Piano/Optional a cappella

This wonderful French madrigal is an a cappella choral work with a secular text. The composer, Pierre Passereau was a Renaissance (1450-1600) French composer born in 1509 and wrote and published *Il est bel et bon* in 1534. He died in 1547. Most of his compositions were chansons, which literally means a "song" in French, or in this case, sometimes called a French madrigal. I've always loved this lively piece. It is about two ladies talking about their husbands. They discuss such things as: He is handsome and good to me, even does housework and feeds the chickens (coquettes). It starts with the dialogue of the two ladies then, emulates the chickens clucking in the yard. So, it should be a fun piece to sing. It is written in the Dorian mode, which has a wonderful "renaissance" sound. It can also be performed a cappella by starting at measure six. Rather than just have the keyboard play the voice parts, as is typical when voices need support in a madrigal, I have written an idiomatic accompaniment that is reminiscent of the lute (a guitar-like instrument) that was used to accompany many Renaissance songs. It also supports the voice parts harmonically, the entrances and the separate voice parts. When first rehearsing, you may want to sing the entire piece on "doo," then introduce the text.

Singing the French is really quite easy! When singing in French, make sure word has a bit of an "oo" on the lips regardless of the vowels and consonants. "No" or "uh" is like "duh," other pronunciations are as you would say them. Pay close attention to the dynamics.

### French/English Translation

Il est bel et bon commère mon mari  
*(My husband's handsome and kind, neighbor)*

Il était deux femmes toutes d'un pays  
*(There were two women from the same town)*

Disant l'une à l'autre avez bon mari  
*(One said to the other: "Do you have a good husband?")*

Il ne me courrouce ne me bat aussi  
*(He never gets angry, never hits me)*

Il fait le ménage, Il donne aux poulets  
*(He cleans the house, he feeds the chickens)*

Et je prends mes plaisirs  
*(And I enjoy myself)*

Commère c'est pourrire  
*(Oh neighbor, it's just for fun)*

Quant les poulaillies crient  
*(When the hens are clucking)*

Petite coquette qu'est ceci  
*("Little flirt, what's this?")*

Co co co co dae...  
*(Cluck cluck cluck...)*

### Phonetic Pronunciation Guide

eel eh bell eh bohn kohm-eh-ruh mohn mah-ree

eel eh-teh duh fem-uh too-tuh duhn peh-ee

dee-zawn loon ah lo-truh ah-veh bohn mah-ree

eel nuh muh cor-roo-say nuh muh bat oh-see

eel feh luh may-nah-zhuh, eel duhn-uh oh poo-leh

eh zheh prawn meh pleh-zeer

koh-mehr-ruh seh poo-ree-ruh

kahn leh poo-leh-yuh kree-uh

puh-tee-tuh koh-keht-uh keh suh-see

koh koh koh koh deh...

Recordings are available on all major streaming services.

# Il Est Bel et Bon

for SSA Voices with opt. Piano Accompaniment

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Allegro (♩ = 78)

Piano (opt.)

*p*

5 Soprano I \* *p*

Soprano II *p*

Alto *p*

Il est bel et bon, bon, bon, bon, com -

Il est bel et bon, bon, bon, bon,

Il est bel et bon, bon,

\*begin at m. 6 if performing a cappella

8 *mp*

mè - re, il est bel et bon, bon, bon, bon, bon, com -

*mp*

bon, com - mè - re, il est bel et bon, bon, bon, com -

*mp*

bon, bon, bon, com - mè - re, il est bel et bon, bon,

*mp*

11 *, mf*

mè - re, com - mè - re, com - mè - re, mon ma - ri. Il é - tait deux fem - mes

mè - re, com - mè - re mon ma - ri.

*mf*

bon, bon, bon, bon, com - mè - re, mon ma - ri. Il é - tait deux

*mf*

15

tou - tes d'un pa - ys,

*mf*

di - sant l'une à l'au - tre: "A - vez bon ma -

fem - mes tou - tes d'un pa - ys,

19

*mp*

Il est bel et bon, bon, bon, bon, bon, com - mè - re,

*mp*

ri?" Il est bel et bon, bon, bon, bon, bon, com - mè -

*mp*

Il est bel et bon, bon, bon, bon, bon, com -

*mp*

il est bel et bon, bon, bon, bon, bon com - mè - re, com-me - re, com -  
 re, il est bel et bon, bon, bon, com - mè - re, com -  
 mè - re, il est bel et bon, bon, bon, bon, bon, bon, bon, bon, com -

mè - re, mon ma - ri. Il ne me cour - rou - cé,  
 mè - re, mon ma - ri.  
 mè - re, mon ma - ri. Il ne me cour -

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ne me bat aus - si. \_\_\_\_\_

*mf*

Il ne me cour - rou - cé, ne me

rou - cé, ne \_\_\_\_\_ me bat aus - si.

32

Il fait le mé - na - ge, il don-ne aux pou - lets,

bat aus - si. fait le mé - na - ge, il don-ne aux

Il fait le mé - na - ge, il don-

36

il don-ne aux pou - lets, et je prends me plai -  
 pou - lets, et je prends me plai -  
 ne aux pou - lets, et je prends me plai -

40

sirs. Com - mè - re c'est pour ri - re quand  
 sir. Com - mè - re c'est pour ri - re,  
 sir. Com - mè - re c'est pour - ri - re,

44

les pou - lail - les cri - ent, quand les pou - lail - les cri - ent:  
 quand les pou - lail - les cri - ent, quand les pou - lail - les cri -  
 — quand les pou - lail - les cri - ent: "Co co

49

Pe - ti - te co - quet - te pe - ti - te co - quet - te, pe - ti - te co -  
 ent: Pe - ti - te co - quet - te, pe - ti - te co - quet - te, pe -  
 co co dae, co co co co co co dae, co co co co co co co dae,

52

quet - te, pe - ti - te co - quet - te, qu'est ce - ci?

ti - te co - quet - te, pe - ti - te co - quet - te, qu'est ce - ci?

co co co co dae,\" pe - ti - te co - quet - te, qu'est ce - ci?

*dim.*

*dim.*

55

*mp*

Il est bel et bon, bon, bon, bon, bon, com - mè - re,

*mp*

Il est bel et bon, bon, bon, bon, bon, com - mè -

*mp*

Il est bel et bon, bon, bon, bon, bon, com -

*mp*

58

il est bel et bon, bon, bon, bon, bon, com - mè - re, com-mè - re, com -

re, il est bel et bon, bon, bon, com - mè - re, com -

mè - re, il est bel et bon, bon, bon, bon, bon, bon, bon, bon, com -

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mè - re, mon ma - ri. Il est bel et bon, bon, bon, bon, bon, com -

mè - re, mon ma - ri. Il est bel et bon, bon, bon, bon,

mè - re, mon ma - ri. Il est bel et bon, bon,

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mè - re, Il est bel et bon, bon, bon, bon, bon, com -  
 bon, com - mè - re, il est bel et bon, bon, bon com -  
 bon, bon, bon, com - mè - re, il est bel et bon, bon,

67

*molto rit. to end*

mè - re, com - mè - re, com - mè - re, mon ma - ri.  
*molto rit. to end*  
 mè - re, com mè - re, mon ma - ri.  
*molto rit. to end*  
 bon, bon, bon, bon, com - mè - re, mon ma - ri.  
*molto rit. to end*



SSA2504