

Again the year has come to spring

**Art song version of Mary Lou's aria from Scene II of
Daughter of the South (opera in one act and two scenes) [1939]**

Edward Joseph Collins, music and words

Again the year has come to the spring
And everywhere is Nature's awak'ning
Again the sun has freed the streams and pierced the leaden skies

I smell the perfume of the earth,
I hear the calling of the birds,
And I am still alone with my shattered love [!]

Again my days are heavy with fear
no ray of hope in this terrible darkness
again my life is filled with tears,
Despair is in my heart!

Four times have the robins gathered their twigs
And nature spread out her colored carpet since the blessed days of peace and happiness
When my sweet-heart and I plighted our troth and my father beamed on our love.

But now! But now.
The days drag on with never a word
Is he living or dead?

Here in my loneliness none can console me
And the ache in my breast, time has not healed
Here in my sorrowing no friend to aid me
Ah suffering! thy name is woman in war time.

The fears of the day turn to spectres at night
Dead soldiers marching by
place their cold hands in mine,

Oh save me my lover!
Come back to me now,
Ere misery and yearning destroy me.