

**1818**

**ODE TO MAY A FRAGMENT**

**John Keats**

**Keats, John (1795-1821) - Widely regarded as the most talented of the English romantic poets, Keats, whose work was poorly received during his lifetime, could not have foreseen his later recognition. Ironically, he wrote for his own epitaph: "Here lies one whose name was writ in water." Ode to May - A fragment (1818) - Opening lines: Mother of Hermes! and still youthful Maia! / May I sing to the ...**

**ODE TO MAY**

Mother of Hermes! and still youthful Maia!  
May I sing to thee  
As thou wast hymned on the shores of Baiae?  
Or may I woo thee In earlier Sicilian?  
Or thy smiles Seek as they once were sought in Grecian isles  
By bards who died content on pleasant sward,  
Leaving great verse unto a little clan?  
O, give me their old vigour, and unheard  
Save of the quiet Primrose, and the span  
Of heaven and few ears,  
Rounded by thee, my song should die away  
Content as theirs,  
Rich in the simple worship of a day.

**THE END**