

El Grillo lyrics

(Italian)

El grillo è buon cantore
Che tiene longo verso
Dalle beve grillo canta

Ma non fa come gli altri uccelli
Come li han cantato un poco

Van de fatto in altro loco
Sempre el grillo sta pur saldo

Quando la maggior el caldo
Alhor canta sol per amore

(English)

The cricket is a good singer
Who can hold long notes
He sings all the time

But he isn't like the other birds
Once they've sung a little bit

They go somewhere else
The cricket stands firm

When it's very hot out
He sings for the love of it

"El grillo" (The Cricket) was written and composed by Josquin des Prés during the Renaissance. It may have been written for Josquin's singer friend Carlo Grillo (note that his last name also translates to cricket).

Josquin des Prés was a French composer of the Renaissance. He lived in Italy for a number of years. While there he worked for the Sforza family in Milan and also was a member of the papal choir in Rome. Before he left Italy he composed one of his most famous secular compositions called El grillo (The Cricket). The song is an early madrigal – the style is actually called a frottola (a comic song for three or four voices). The lyrics (poem) usually has a rhyme scheme of *abba* for the reprise and *cdcdd* or *cdcdddea* for the stanza.

(ripped from [Mama Lisa's World](#))