

Will Harmer

Lullaby

For soprano and piano

TEXT

Lullaby

Harriet Monroe (1860-1936)

My little one, sleep softly
Among the toys and flowers.
Sleep softly, O my first-born son,
Through all the long dark hours.
And if you waken far away
I shall be wandering too.
If far away you run and play
My heart must follow you.

Sleep softly, O my baby,
And smile down in your sleep.
Here are red rose-buds for your bed—
Smile, and I will not weep.
We made our pledge—you had no fear;
What then to fear have I?
Though long you sleep, I shall be near;
So hush—we must not cry.

Sleep softly, dear one, softly—
They cannot part us now;
Forever rest here on my breast,
My kiss upon your brow.
What though they hide a little grave
With dream-flowers false or true?
What difference? We will just be brave
Together—I and you.

This song, along with 'Summer Dance', was composed for the 2024 Peter Tranchell Foundation Composition Competition, for which it won first prize.

Lullaby is a setting of a poem of the same name by American poet and editor Harriet Monroe (1860-1936). Its harmonic language was influenced by some of Peter Tranchell's lighter songs; I use a largely tonal palette with some jazzy inflections and chromaticism. The lilting accompaniment figures also resonate with the era of show-tunes and parlour songs, of which I was reminded when researching Tranchell's songs.

Lullaby

For soprano and piano

Harriet Monroe

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Lilting (♩ = 114)

The first system of the score shows the piano introduction. The soprano part is a whole rest. The piano part is in 3/4 time, key of B-flat major. It begins with a piano (*p*) dynamic and a *tenderly* marking. The right hand plays a melody of eighth and quarter notes, while the left hand provides a harmonic accompaniment of eighth notes. A pedaling line with four upward strokes indicates the pedal to be held throughout the system.

9

This system contains measures 9 through 15. The soprano part begins with the lyrics "My lit - tle one, sleep — soft - ly A -". The piano accompaniment continues with a similar melodic and harmonic pattern. The dynamic remains *p* and the marking *tenderly*. A pedaling line with three upward strokes is shown below the piano part, with the instruction "(sim., molto ped. throughout)".

16

This system contains measures 16 through 22. The soprano part continues with the lyrics "mong the toys — and flowers. Sleep soft - ly, O — my". The piano accompaniment maintains the same musical texture. The dynamic remains *p* and the marking *tenderly*. A pedaling line with three upward strokes is shown below the piano part.

23

first born son, Through all the long dark hours.

This system contains measures 23 through 29. The vocal line begins with a half note G4, followed by quarter notes A4, Bb4, C5, D5, E5, and a half note F#5. The piano accompaniment features a steady eighth-note bass line in the left hand and chords in the right hand. A crescendo hairpin is present in the piano part starting at measure 27.

30

And if you wa - ken far a - way, far a - way

This system contains measures 30 through 35. The vocal line starts with a half note G4, followed by quarter notes A4, Bb4, C5, and a half note D5. Dynamics include *mf* at measure 30, *p* at measure 32, and *mf* at measure 34. The piano accompaniment has a more active melody in the right hand with eighth and sixteenth notes, while the left hand provides a simple harmonic support.

36

I shall be wan - de-ring too. If far a - way you run and

This system contains measures 36 through 42. The vocal line begins with a half note G4, followed by quarter notes A4, Bb4, C5, and a half note D5. A *mf* dynamic is marked at measure 38. The piano accompaniment continues with a flowing eighth-note melody in the right hand and sustained chords in the left hand.

43

play My heart must fol - low, fol - low you.

This system contains measures 43 through 48. The vocal line starts with a half note G4, followed by quarter notes A4, Bb4, C5, and a half note D5. A *p* (piano) dynamic is marked at measure 43. The piano accompaniment features a descending eighth-note scale in the right hand and sustained chords in the left hand.

50

50

p

Sleep

Ped.

This system contains measures 50 through 56. The vocal line begins with a whole rest in measure 50, followed by a half note G4 in measure 51, and then whole notes F4, E4, D4, C4, and B3 in measures 52 through 56. The piano accompaniment starts with a half note G3 in measure 50, followed by a half note F3 in measure 51, and then a series of eighth and sixteenth notes in measures 52 through 56. A *Ped.* (pedal) marking is placed under the piano part in measure 52. A *p* (piano) dynamic marking is placed above the vocal line in measure 51.

57

57

soft - ly, O my ba - by, And smile down in your

ped. sim.

This system contains measures 57 through 63. The vocal line continues with half notes G4, F4, E4, D4, C4, and B3 in measures 57 through 63. The piano accompaniment continues with eighth and sixteenth notes. A *ped. sim.* (pedalissimo) marking is placed under the piano part in measure 57.

64

64

mp

poco accel.

sleep. Here are red rose - buds for your bed

mp

This system contains measures 64 through 69. The vocal line begins with a whole note G3 in measure 64, followed by half notes F4, E4, D4, C4, and B3 in measures 65 through 69. The piano accompaniment continues with eighth and sixteenth notes. A *mp* (mezzo-piano) dynamic marking is placed above the vocal line in measure 64 and below the piano part in measure 64. A *poco accel.* (poco accelerando) marking is placed above the vocal line in measure 68.

70

70

poco rit.

mf

Smile Smile, and I will not weep.

mf

Ped.

This system contains measures 70 through 75. The vocal line begins with a whole rest in measure 70, followed by half notes G4, F4, E4, D4, C4, and B3 in measures 71 through 75. The piano accompaniment continues with eighth and sixteenth notes. A *poco rit.* (poco ritardando) marking is placed above the vocal line in measure 70. A *mf* (mezzo-forte) dynamic marking is placed above the vocal line in measure 71 and below the piano part in measure 71. A *Ped.* (pedal) marking is placed under the piano part in measure 70.

78 **Tempo Primo***mp dolce*

p

We made our pledge- you had no fear; What then to fear have I? Though

p

—^

86

long you sleep, I shall be near, shall be near; _____

espressivo

mf

94

p

So hush

p

102

hush, we must not cry _____

p

dim.

Ped. _____

109 poco rit. *pp* Tempo Primo

Sleep soft - ly, dear one,

116

soft - ly - They can - not part us now;

122

For - e - ver rest here on my

128

breast my kiss u - pon your brow

f *espressivo*

Piu Mosso (♩ = 126)

Tempo Primo

140

p a little fearful

poco accel.

146

mf resolute

153

Piu Mosso (♩ = 126)

Ped.

^ Ped.

159 *f* *mf*

To - ge - - - - - ther, to -

164 *rit.*

-ge - ther I and

169 **Tempo Primo** *p* *rit.*

you