

# “Sleep, Little Bird”

from MARY COME RUNNING—a Christmas Opera

for Mary (woman or older girl), Piano and Flute\*

Lyrics by Jean Merrill

Music by Gwyneth Walker

The musical score is set in 3/4 time with a key signature of three sharps (F#, C#, G#). The tempo is marked as quarter note = 88. The score is divided into three systems, each with a vocal line for Mary and a piano accompaniment.

**System 1:** Mary's vocal line begins with a rest for four measures, then enters with the lyrics "Sleep, \_\_\_\_\_ lit - tle". The piano accompaniment starts with a *p* dynamic and includes markings for *And.*, *\* sim.*, and *p gently*.

**System 2:** Mary's vocal line continues with the lyrics "bird, in your gold straw \_\_\_\_\_ nest, be - loved of the Lord, and the". The piano accompaniment continues with a similar texture.

**System 3:** Mary's vocal line concludes with the lyrics "ox - 's guest. Dream, lit - tle dove, \_\_\_\_\_ and when you a -". A triplet of eighth notes is marked with a "3" above it. The piano accompaniment features a long melodic line in the right hand and a steady bass line.

\* If Flute is not available, the pianist is encouraged to work flute lines into piano part.

Mary

16

wake, I will make for my love a choc - o - late cake.

Piano

Mary

21

Eat, lit - tle lamb, and

Fl.

*p cantabile*

Piano

Mary

26

when you are full, I'll weave you a coat of soft — warm

Fl.

Piano

31

Mary

Fl.

Piano

wool. Laugh, lit-tle mouse, the mice in the hay will tick - le your

37

Mary

Fl.

Piano

toes and teach you to play.

*(p)* playfully

slightly faster

slightly faster

41

Mary

Fl.

Piano

Stretch, lit - tle flow - er, reach up for a

*rit.* ----- *a tempo*  
*p*

*rit.* -----

*rit.* ----- *a tempo*  
*p*

*rit.* -----

playfully

46 *a tempo*

Mary  
star. Ev-'ry star is a flow - er in the gar - den of God.

Fl.  
(*p*)

Piano  
*a tempo*

51 *rit. slightly slower*

Mary  
*p* Ev-'ry star is a flow - er in the gar - den of God.

Fl.

Piano  
*rit. slightly slower*  
*p*  
*mp*

56

Mary  
*p* Ah

Fl.  
*mp*  
*p*

Piano  
*p*

Mary

62

Ah

Piano

Mary

67

Stretch, lit - tle flow - er, reach up for a star. Ev - 'ry star is a

*rit.* ----- *a tempo*

Piano

Mary

72

flow - er in the gar - den of God. Ev - 'ry star is a

*rit.* ----- *slightly slower*

*p*

Fl.

(*p*)

Piano

Mary

77

3

flow - er in the gar - den of God.

Fl.

Piano

Mary

80

of God.

Fl.

Piano

*rit.*

*rit.*

*8va*

*rit.*

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Flute

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Mary

♩ = 88

3

Sleep, lit - tle bird, in your gold straw

8

10

Mary

3

a choc - o - late cake.

*p cantabile*

23

28

7

39

slightly faster

*rit.* ----- *a tempo* *rit.*

2

(*p*) playfully

46

*a tempo*

Mary

3

flow - er in the gar - den of

(*p*)

51

*rit.* ----- slightly slower

2

*mp*

58

*rit.* *a tempo*

Mary

9

3

flow - er in the gar - den of

*p*

74

*rit.* ----- slightly slower

3

*rit.*

(*p*)