

# “Sleep, Little Bird”

from MARY COME RUNNING—a Christmas Opera

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

Lyrics by Jean Merrill

Music by Gwyneth Walker

The musical score is written for a solo voice (Mary) and piano accompaniment. It is in the key of D major (indicated by two sharps) and 3/4 time. The tempo is marked as quarter note = 88. The score is divided into three systems, each with a measure number (1, 6, and 11) at the beginning of the vocal line.

**System 1 (Measures 1-5):** Mary's vocal line begins with a rest for four measures, then enters with the lyrics "Sleep, \_\_\_\_\_ lit - tle". The piano accompaniment starts in measure 1 with a *p* dynamic and includes markings for *And.* and *sim.* (sostenuto).

**System 2 (Measures 6-10):** 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 *p* dynamic.

**System 3 (Measures 11-15):** Mary's vocal line continues with the lyrics "ox - 's guest. Dream, lit - tle dove, \_\_\_\_\_ and when you a -". The piano accompaniment continues with a *p* dynamic and includes a triplet of eighth notes in measure 14.

16

Mary

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

Child.

*p*  
a

Piano

21

Child.

choc - o - late cake.

Fl.

*p cantabile*

Piano

25

Child.

*(p)*  
Eat, lit - tle lamb, and when you are

Fl.

Piano

29

Child. full, I'll weave you a coat of soft warm wool.

Fl.

Piano

34

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

Fl.

Piano

39

Child. toes and teach you to play.

Fl. *(p)* playfully

Piano

**slightly faster**

**slightly faster**

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

Mary

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

Fl.

Piano

*playfully*

48 ----- *a tempo*

Mary

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

Fl.

(*p*)

Piano

*a tempo*

53 *rit.* ----- *slightly slower* *p* *3*

Child.

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

Fl.

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

Piano

*mp*

58

Child.  
(div.)

Ah

Ah

Fl.

*mp*

*p*

Piano

*p*

64

Child.

Ah

Ah

Piano

The image shows a page of a musical score for the piece "Sleep, Little Bird". The page is numbered 5 in the top right corner. The score is divided into two systems, starting at measure 58 and measure 64. The first system includes parts for two children (labeled "Child. (div.)"), a flute ("Fl."), and piano. The piano part is written for both hands. The second system includes parts for two children ("Child.") and piano. The piano part continues with both hands. The key signature is three sharps (F#, C#, G#). The time signature is not explicitly shown but appears to be 3/4. Dynamics include *p* (piano), *mp* (mezzo-piano), and *p* (piano). There are trills and triplets indicated by the number '3'. The vocal parts have lyrics "Ah" and "Ah" written below the notes. The piano part features a melodic line in the right hand and a supporting bass line in the left hand.

69 *unis.* *rit.* ----- *a tempo*

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

Fl.

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

74 *rit.* ----- *slightly slower* *p*

Mary Ev - 'ry star is a

Child. <sup>3</sup> flow - er in the gar - den of God.

Fl. *(p)*

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

79

Mary

Fl.

Piano

flow - er in the gar - den of God.

82

Mary

Child.

Piano

of God.

*rit.*

*rit.*

8<sup>va</sup>

*Ad.*

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Flute

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Mary

3

♩ = 88

3/4

Sleep, lit - tle bird, in your gold straw

8

12

Children

3

a choc - o - late cake.

*p cantabile*

25

30

7

41

slightly faster

*p* playfully

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

2

48

*a tempo*

Mary

3

flow - er in the gar - den of

*p*

53

*rit.* ----- slightly slower

2

*mp*

60

*rit.* *a tempo*

Children

9

3

*p*

flow - er in the gar - den of

76

*p*

*rit.* ----- slightly slower

3

*rit.*