

“Sleep, Little Bird”

from MARY COME RUNNING—a Christmas Opera

for Mary (Soprano), Joseph (Tenor/Baritone) Piano and Flute

Lyrics by Jean Merrill

Music by Gwyneth Walker

The musical score is written for Soprano (Mary) and Piano. 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: *p* Sleep, _____ lit - tle
Piano: *p gently* *And.* * *sim.*

System 2 (Measures 6-10):
Mary: 6 bird, in your gold straw _____ nest, be - loved of the Lord, and the
Piano: Accompaniment continues with chords and moving lines in both hands.

System 3 (Measures 11-15):
Mary: 11 ox - 's guest. Dream, lit - tle dove, _____ and when you a -
Piano: Accompaniment continues, featuring a triplet of eighth notes in the vocal line at measure 14.

Mary

16

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

Jos.

8

p

a

Piano

Jos.

21

choc - o - late cake.

Fl.

p cantabile

Piano

Jos.

25

(p)

Eat, lit - tle lamb, and when you are

Fl.

Piano

29 *p*

Mary I'll weave you a coat of soft warm wool.

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

Fl.

Piano

34

Mary the mice in the hay will

Jos. Laugh, lit - tle mouse, the mice in the hay will

Piano

38 **slightly faster**

Mary tick - le your toes and teach you to play.

Jos. tick - le your toes and teach you to play.

Fl. *(p) playfully*

Piano **slightly faster**

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

Mary *p* Stretch, lit - tle flow - er, reach up for a

Jos. *p* Stretch, lit - tle flow - er, reach up for a

Fl.

Piano *playfully* *rit.* *a tempo* *rit.*

48 *a tempo* *3*

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

Jos. star.

Fl. *(p)*

Piano *a tempo*

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

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

Fl.

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

58

Mary

Jos.

Fl.

Piano

p

3

Ah

p

Ah

mp

p

p

7

64

Mary

Jos.

Piano

Ah

3

Ah

p

7

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

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

Jos.
Stretch, lit - tle flow - er, reach up for a star.

Piano

rit. ----- *a tempo*

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

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

Jos.
Ev - 'ry star is a

Fl.
(*p*)

Piano

rit. ----- *slightly slower*

79

Mary

Jos.

Fl.

Piano

flow - er in the gar - den of God.

flow - er in the gar - den gar - - -

82

Mary

Jos.

Piano

rit.

of God.

den of God.

rit.

8va

rit.

*

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Flute

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Mary

3

♩ = 88

Sleep, lit - tle bird, in your gold straw

8

12

Joseph

3

a choc - o - late cake.

p cantabile

25

30

7

41

slightly faster

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

2

(*p*) playfully

48

a tempo

Mary

3

flow - er in the gar - den of

(*p*)

53

rit. ----- slightly slower

2

mp

60

9

rit. *a tempo*

Mary

3

flow - er in the gar - den of

p

76

3

rit.

(*p*)