

# “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 one sharp (F#). 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 (Measures 1-5):** Mary's line begins with a rest, followed by a melodic phrase starting on G4: "Sleep, \_\_\_\_\_ lit - tle\_". The piano accompaniment starts with a *ped.* (pedal) marking and a *sim.* (sostenuto) marking. The piano part is marked *p gently*.

**System 2 (Measures 6-10):** Mary's line continues: "bird, in your gold straw \_\_\_\_\_ nest, be - loved of \_ the \_ Lord, and the". The piano accompaniment continues with chords and moving lines.

**System 3 (Measures 11-15):** Mary's line concludes: "ox - 's \_\_\_\_\_ guest. Dream, lit - tle dove, \_\_\_\_\_ and when you a -". The piano accompaniment features a triplet of eighth notes in the vocal line and continues with chords and moving lines.

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

16

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

21

M. Eat, lit - tle lamb, and

Fl. *p cantabile*

26

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

Fl.

31

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

Fl.

37

M toes and teach you to play.

Fl. *(p)* playfully

**slightly faster**

**slightly faster**

41

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

Fl.

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

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

46 *a tempo*

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

Fl. *(p)*

51 *rit. slightly slower p*

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

Fl.

*rit. slightly slower mp*

56 *p*

M *Ah*

Fl. *mp p*

62

M

Ah

67

M

*rit.* *a tempo*

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

*rit.* *a tempo*

72

M

*rit.* *slightly slower*

*p*

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

Fl.

*p*

*rit.* *slightly slower*

77

M. *3*  
 flow - er in the gar - den of God.

Fl.

80

M. *rit.*  
 of God.

Fl. *rit.*

P. *rit.* \*

Lead.

\*Cue-sized notes in the piano should be omitted if a Flute is included in the performance.

Flute

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$\text{♩} = 88$

(Mary) Sleep, — lit - tle - bird, in your gold straw — **10**

18 *Play* *p cantabile*

(Mary) love — a — choc - o - late — cake.

24

30 **5** (Mary) toes — and — teach — you to

39 *slightly faster* *Play* *(p) playfully* *rit.* *a tempo* **2**

45 *rit.* *a tempo* **2** *Play* *rit.* *slightly slower*

(Mary) gar - den of — *(p)*

53 **2** *mp* **9** *p*

69 *rit.* *a tempo* (Mary) star is a flow - er — in the gar - den of — *Play* *(p)*

75 *rit.* *slightly slower* *rit.*

The musical score is written in treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a 3/4 time signature. It consists of ten staves of music. The first staff begins with a tempo marking of quarter note = 88. The lyrics are: "(Mary) Sleep, — lit - tle - bird, in your gold straw —". The second staff has a measure rest followed by a triplet of eighth notes. The lyrics are: "(Mary) love — a — choc - o - late — cake.". The third staff continues the melody. The fourth staff has a measure rest followed by a quintuplet of eighth notes. The lyrics are: "(Mary) toes — and — teach — you to". The fifth staff begins with a tempo change to "slightly faster" and a dynamic marking of "(p) playfully". The lyrics are: "(Mary) gar - den of —". The sixth staff has a measure rest followed by a quintuplet of eighth notes. The seventh staff has a measure rest followed by a triplet of eighth notes. The lyrics are: "(Mary) star is a flow - er — in the gar - den of —". The eighth staff continues the melody. The ninth staff has a measure rest followed by a triplet of eighth notes. The lyrics are: "(Mary) star is a flow - er — in the gar - den of —". The tenth staff continues the melody.