



O can ye sew cushions?

Scottish cradle song

Granville Bantock
(1868-1946)

Sir Granville Ransome Bantock (1868-1946) was born in London. In his late teens, he began to show an interest in music, but his father enrolled him to study for the Indian Civil Service. Bantock would skip lectures to attend concerts and peruse scores in libraries. A diplomatic career was abandoned and he began studies in Chemical Engineering. He became ill and he was banished by doctors to a dark room at home for six months. His father conceded to the young composer's desire to study music. He entered the Royal Academy of Music in 1889 to study composition. On leaving the RAM in 1893 he worked as an editor of the New Quarterly Musical Review and as a conductor of light opera. From 1897 to 1900 he was Musical Director at the New Brighton Tower Pleasure Gardens where he extended the small seaside band to a full-scale symphony orchestra and presented concerts of music by Elgar, Parry, Stanford, Sibelius, Mackenzie, Corder and Wagner. In 1900 he became Principal at the Birmingham and Midland Institute and in 1908 became Peyton Professor of Music at the University of Birmingham and also taught at Trinity College, London. He had an active career as an important academic, composer, examiner, adjudicator, editor, conductor and committee member for a variety of institutions.

O can ye sew cushions, and can ye sew sheets?
And can ye sing baluloo when the bairn greets?
And hee and ba, birdie, and hee and ba lamb!
And hee and ba, birdie, my bonnie wee lamb!

O wee, O wee, what will I do wi' you?
Black's the life that I lead wi' you!
Nony o' you, little for to gi'e you.

I've placed my cradle on yon holly top;
And aye as the wind blew my cradle did rock.
O hushaba, baby, O ba lilly loo!
And hee and ba, birdie, my bonnie wee doo!

O wee, O wee, what will I do wi' you?
Black's the life that I lead wi' you!
Nony o' you, little for to gi'e you.

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O can ye sew cushions?

Granville Bantock

Lentamente con dolcezza ♩ = 76

espress.

S O can ye sew cush - ions, and can ye sew sheets? And

A O can ye sew cush - ions, and can ye sew sheets?

T O can ye sew cush - ions, and can ye sew sheets?

B O can ye sew cush - ions, and

5

cresc. *dim.* *mp* *dolce*

S can ye sing ba - lu - loo when the bairn greets? And

cresc. *dim.* *p* *dolce*

A Can ye sing ba - lu - loo when the bairn greets? And

cresc. *dim.* *p* *dolce*

T And can ye sing when the bairn greets? And

cresc. *dim.* *p* *dolce*

B can ye sing ba - lu - loo when the bairn greets? And

9

cresc. *mf*

S hee and ba, bird - ie, and hee and ba lamb! And hee and ba,

cresc. *mf*

A hee and ba, bird - ie, and hee and ba lamb! And hee and ba,

cresc. *mf*

T hee and ba, bird - ie, and hee and ba lamb! And hee and ba,

cresc. *mf*

B hee, ba, bird - ie, hee, ba, lamb! And hee and ba,

O can ye sew cushions?

Poco meno mosso, sostenuto ♩ = 69

14

S bird - ie, my bon - nie wee lamb! O wee, O wee,

A bird - ie, my bon - nie wee lamb! Hee O, wee O,

T bird - ie, my bon - nie wee lamb! O wee,

B bird - ie, my bon - nie wee lamb! O wee,

rit. *dim.* *pp* *mp*

18

S what will I do? O wee, O wee, Black's the life, O wee, O wee,

A what will I do wi' you? Black's the life that I lead wi' you! No - ny o' you,

T what will I do? O wee, life I lead wi' you! O wee,

B what will I do wi' you? O wee, Black's the life I lead wi' you! O wee,

pp *cresc.* *mp espress.* *più p*

22

S what will I do? O wee, O wee, O what will I do wi' you?

A lit - tle for to gi'e you— Hee O, wee O, what will I do wi' you?

T what will I do? O wee, what will I do wi' you?

B lit - tle for to gi'e you— O wee, what will I do wi' you?

pp *rall.* *dim.* *pp* *mp* *rall. cresc.* *pp* *rall.* *dim.* *pp*

O can ye sew cushions?

Tempo 1mo.

mp espress.

S I've placed my cra - dle on yon hol - ly top; And

A I've placed my cra - dle on yon hol - ly top;

T I've placed my cra - dle on yon hol - ly top;

B I've placed my cra - - - dle; And

30 *cresc.* *dim.* *mp dolce*

S aye as the wind blew my cra - dle did rock. O

A *cresc.* *dim.* *mp*
And aye as the wind blew, did rock. O

T *cresc.* *dim.* *mp*
And as the wind blew my cra - dle did rock. O

B *cresc.* *dim.* *mp*
aye as the wind blew my cra - dle did rock. O

34 *cresc.*

S hush - a - ba, ba - by, O ba lil - ly loo! And

A *cresc.*
hush - a - ba, ba - by, O ba lil - ly loo! And

T *cresc.*
hush - a - ba, ba - by, O ba lil - ly loo! And

B *cresc.*
hush - a - ba, ba - by, lil - ly loo! And

O can ye sew cushions?

38 *mf* *rit.* *dim.*

S hee and ba, bird - ie, my bon - nie wee doo!

A hee and ba, bird - ie, my bon - nie wee doo!

T hee and ba, bird - ie, my bon - nie wee doo!

B hee and ba, bird - ie, my bon - nie wee doo!

42 *Poco meno mosso, sostenuto* ♩ = 69 *pp* *espress.*

S O wee, O wee, what will I do? O wee, O wee,

A Hee O, wee O, what will I do wi' you? Black's the life that

T O wee, what will I do? O wee,

B O wee, what will I do wi' you? O wee,

45 *piú p*

S Black's the life, O wee, O wee, what will I do?

A I lead wi' you! No - ny o' you, lit - tle for to gi'e you—

T life I lead wi' you! O wee, what will I do?

B Black's the life I lead wi' you! O wee, lit - tle for to gi'e you—

O can ye sew cushions?

48

S O wee, — O wee, — *espress.* *rall. molto* O what — will — I — *dim.* do wi' you? *pp*

A Hee O, wee O, what *rall. molto* will I do wi'you? *pp*

T O wee, — *rall. molto* *espress.* what will I do wi' you? *dim.* *pp*

B O wee, — *rall. molto* *espress.* what will — I — do wi' you? *dim.* *pp*

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