





Lullaby A CRADLE SONG

Joseph Barnby (1838-1896)

Sir Joseph Barnby (1838-1896) was born at York, as a son of organist Thomas Barnby. He was a chorister at York Minster and was educated at the Royal Academy of Music. In 1856, he competed for the first Mendelssohn Scholarship and tied for first place with Arthur Sullivan. After a second test, Sullivan won. Barnby held organist positions at Mitcham, St. Michael's, Queenhithe, and St. James' the Less, Westminster, St. Andrew's, Wells Street, London, and St. Anne's, Soho. In London, he also was conductor of "Barnby's Choir," well known for their many performances. In 1871 he was appointed, in succession to Charles Gounod, conductor of the Royal Albert Hall Choral Society, holding that position until his death. He was director of music at Eton College then principal of the Guildhall School of Music. His works include oratorio, many services and anthems, and 246 hymn tunes, many part-songs, and organ pieces. He is the subject of a popular story (probably apocryphal) about a young contralto who, at the end of a Handel solo, put in a high note instead of the less effective note usually sung. Barnby, the conductor, was shocked, and asked whether Miss – thought she was right to improve on Handel. "Well, Sir Joseph," she said, "I've got an 'E' and I don't see why I shouldn't show it off." To which Barnby replied, "I believe you have two knees, but I hope you won't show them off here."

Lullaby! O, lullaby!
Baby, hush that little cry!
Light is dying,
Bats are flying,
Bees today with work have done.

Lo, till comes the morrow's sun, Let sleep kiss those bright eyes dry! Lullaby! O, lullaby! Hush'd are all things far and nigh; Flow'rs are closing, Birds reposing, All sweet things with life have done. Sweet, sweet, till dawns the morning sun, Sleep, then kiss those blue eyes dry,

Lulla, lulla, lullaby! Lullaby! Lullaby!

William Cox Bennett (1820-1895)

J. Barnby





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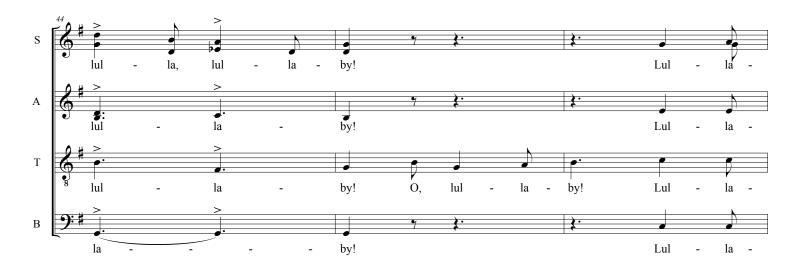


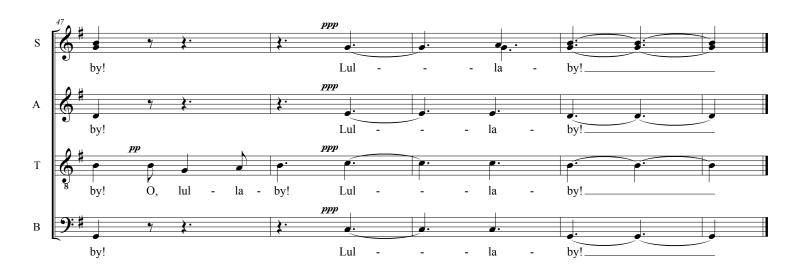
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Novello, Ewer and Company (1877)

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