



# A Cradle Song

John Nicholson Ireland  
(1879-1962)

Sleep, sleep, beauty bright,  
Dreaming in the joys of night;  
Sleep, sleep; in thy sleep  
Little sorrows sit and weep.

Sweet babe, in thy face  
Soft desires I can trace,  
Secret joys and secret smiles,  
Little pretty infant wiles.

As thy softest limbs I feel  
Smiles as of the morning steal  
O'er thy cheek, and o'er thy breast  
Where thy little heart doth rest.

O the cunning wiles that creep  
In thy little heart asleep!  
When thy little heart doth wake,  
Then the dreadful night shall break.

William Blake (1757-1827)

# A Cradle Song

John Ireland

Andante ♩ = 88

S *p* *dolciss.*  
Sleep, sleep, beau - ty bright,

A *pp* *dolciss.*  
Sleep, sleep, sleep, beau - ty bright,

T *pp* *dolciss.*  
Sleep, sleep, sleep, beau - ty bright,

B *pp* *dolciss.*  
Sleep, sleep, beau - ty bright,

5  
S Dream - ing in the joys of night; Sleep, sleep; in thy sleep

A Dream - ing in the joys of night; Sleep, sleep; in thy sleep

T Dream - ing in the joys of night; Sleep, sleep; in thy sleep

B Dream - ing in the joys of night; Sleep, sleep;

## A Cradle Song

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S Lit - tle sor - rows sit and weep. Sweet babe,

A Lit - tle sor - rows sit and weep. Sweet babe,

T Lit - tle sor - rows sit and weep. Sweet babe,

B in thy sleep Lit - tle sor - rows sit and weep. Sweet babe,

13

S in thy face Soft de - sires I can trace,

A in thy face Soft de - sires I can trace, Se - cret

T in thy face Soft de - sires I can trace,

B in thy face Soft de - sires I can trace, Se - cret joys and

17

S Se - cret joys and se - cret smiles, Lit - tle pret - ty in - fant

A joys and se - cret smiles, Lit - tle pret - ty in - fant

T Se - cret joys and se - cret smiles, Lit - tle pret - ty in - fant

B se - cret smiles, Lit - tle pret - ty in - fant

# A Cradle Song

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S wiles. *pp*

A wiles. *pp* (with closed lips)

T wiles. *pp* (with closed lips)

B wiles. *pp* (with closed lips)

25 *pp* *dolciss.* *poco cresc.*

S As thy soft - est limbs I feel Smiles as of the morn - ing steal

A *poco cresc.*

T *poco cresc.*

B *poco cresc.*

29 *mf*

S O'er thy cheek, and o'er thy breast Where thy lit - tle heart doth rest.

A *mf*

T *mf*

B *mf*

## A Cradle Song

33

S *pp* O the cun - ning wiles that creep — In thy lit - tle

A *pp* O the cun - ning wiles that creep — In thy lit - tle

T *pp* O the cun - ning wiles that creep — In thy lit - tle

B *pp* O the cun - ning wiles that creep — In thy lit - tle

37

S heart a - sleep! — When thy lit - tle heart doth wake, —

A heart a - sleep! When thy lit - tle heart doth wake, — Then the

T heart a - sleep! When thy lit - tle heart doth wake, —

B heart a - sleep! When thy lit - tle heart doth wake, — Then the

41

S *cresc. molto* Then the dread - ful night shall break. — *f* Then the dread - ful night shall *dim.*

A *cresc. molto* dread - ful night shall break. — *f* Then the dread - ful night shall *dim.*

T *cresc. molto* Then the dread - ful night shall break. — *f* Then the dread - ful night shall *dim.*

B *cresc. molto* dread - ful — night shall break. — *f* The dread - ful night shall *dim.*



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