



# Childhood's melody

Francesco Berger  
(1834-1933)

**Francesco Berger** (1834-1933) was born in London to Italian immigrants. His father, born in Trieste, was a naturalized Briton. At 14, Berger travelled to his father's hometown and his first opera was performed there when he was 17. He received much of his musical education in Germany and returned to England. Berger became a professor of music at the Royal Academy of Music and also taught at the Guildhall School. He was a member and director of the Philharmonic Society and he acted as its honorary secretary from 1884 until 1911. In that capacity, he introduced many new works and on several occasions brought Tchaikovsky over to conduct his own works. He composed many works including masses, overtures, operas, chamber music, choral works, piano compositions, song cycles and vocal settings.

Sad and alone, at Midnight hour,  
Strange-seeming sounds come wafted near,  
As when a mother's softest power  
Soothes into peace her nursling dear.

When unobserved soft tears are flowing,  
Easing the pain that fills the heart;  
And on the feverish brow bestowing  
A calm that bids our cares depart.

As if the May, again returning,  
Waved o'er our path her angel wing;  
Life seems with gracious promise burning,  
Hailing anew its gentle Spring.

And as that dreamlike strain floats nigh me.  
Whate'er its sacred mission be,  
E'en while I wake it passes by me,  
As though 'twere Childhood's Melody.

William Ball (1801-1878)  
from the German of Robert Eduard Prutz (1816-1872)

# Childhood's melody

F. Berger

Andantino (softly and tenderly)

S  
At Mid - night hour, Strange - seem - ing

A  
*mf* Sad and a - lone, at Mid - night hour, Strange - seem - ing

T  
*mf* Sad and a - lone, at Mid - night hour, Strange - seem - ing

B  
*mf* Sad and a - lone, at Mid - night hour, Strange - seem - ing

S  
sounds come waft - ed near, As when a moth - er's

A  
sounds come waft - ed near, As when a moth - er's

T  
sounds come waft - ed near, As when a moth - er's

B  
sounds come waft - ed near, As when a moth - er's

# Childhood's melody

11

S soft - est pow - er Soothes in - to peace her nurs - ling

A soft - est pow - er Soothes in - to peace her nurs - ling

T soft - est pow - er Soothes in - to peace her nurs - ling

B soft - est pow - er Soothes in - to peace her nurs - ling

16

S dear. When un - ob - serv'd soft tears are flow - ing, Eas - ing the

A dear. When un - ob - serv'd soft tears are flow - ing, Eas - ing the

T dear. When un - ob - serv'd soft tears are flow - ing, Eas - ing the

B dear. When un - ob - serv'd soft tears are flow - ing, Eas - ing the

22

S pain, the pain that fills the heart; And on the fev' - rish

A pain, the pain that fills the heart; And on the fev' - rish

T pain, the pain that fills the heart; And on the fev' - rish

B pain that fills the heart; And on the fev' - rish

# Childhood's melody

27

S  
brow — be - stow - ing A calm that bids our cares de - part.

A  
brow be - stow - ing Calm — that bids — our cares — de - part.

T  
brow be - stow - ing A calm that bids — our cares de - part.

B  
brow be - stow - ing A calm that bids — our cares de - part.

*f* *p* *dolce* *rall.* *dim.*

*f* *p* *dolce* *rall.* *dim.*

*f* *p* *dolce* *rall.* *dim.*

*f* *p* *rall.* *dim.*

33

S  
As May, re - turn - ing, Wav'd o'er our

A  
As if the May, a - gain re - turn - ing, Wav'd o'er our

T  
As if the May, a - gain re - turn - ing, Wav'd o'er our

B  
As if the May, a - gain re - turn - ing, Wav'd o'er our

*mf*

*mf*

*mf*

38

S  
path — her an - gel wing; Life seems with gra - cious

A  
path her an - gel wing; Life seems with gra - cious

T  
path her an - gel wing; Life seems with gra - cious

B  
path her an - gel wing. Life seems with gra - cious

# Childhood's melody

43

S pro - mise burn - ing, Hail - ing a - new its gen - tle

A pro - mise burn - ing, Hail - ing a - new its gen - tle

T pro - mise burn - ing, Hail - ing a - new its gen - tle

B pro - mise burn - ing, Hail - ing a - new its gen - tle

48

S Spring. And as that dream - like strain floats nigh me.

A Spring. And as that dream - like strain floats nigh me.

T Spring. And as that dream - like strain floats nigh me.

B Spring. And as that dream - like strain floats nigh me.

53

S What - e'er its mis - sion, its sa - cred mis - sion be, E'en while I

A What - e'er its mis - sion, its sa - cred mis - sion be, E'en while I

T What - e'er its mis - sion, its sa - cred mis - sion be, E'en while I

B What - e'er its sa - cred mis - sion be, E'en while I

# Childhood's melody

58

S  
wake it pass - es by me, As thoughtwere Child - hood's Mel - o -

A  
wake it pass - es by me, As thoughtwere Child - hood's Mel - o -

T  
wake it pass - es by me, As thoughtwere Child - hood's Mel - o -

B  
wake it pass - es by me, As thoughtwere Child - hood's Mel - o -

*cresc.* *f* *p* *rall.*

64

S  
dy, Child - hood's Mel - o - dy, Child - hood's Mel - o - dy.

A  
dy, Child - hood's Mel - o - dy, Child - hood's Mel - o - dy.

T  
dy, Child - hood's Mel - o - dy, Child - hood's Mel - o - dy.

B  
dy, Child - hood's Mel - o - dy, Child - hood's Mel - o - dy.

*dolcissimo* *pp* *ritenuto* *pp*

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