



# Sleep

Maurice Besley  
(1888–1945)

# Sleep

Maurice Besley

Andante moderato, molto tranquillo e misterioso

S  
A  
T  
B

O soft em - balm - er of the still

S  
A  
T  
B

mid - night! Shut - ting with care - ful fin - gers and be - nign Our

# Sleep

7

S  
gloom - pleased eyes, em - bower'd from light, En - shad - ed in for -

A  
gloom - pleased eyes, em - bower'd from light, En - shad - ed in for -

T  
8  
gloom - pleased eyes, em - bower'd from light, En - shad - ed in for -

B  
gloom - pleased eyes, em - bower'd from light, En - shad - ed in for -

11

S  
get - ful - ness di - vine; O sooth - est Sleep! if

A  
get - ful - ness di - vine; O sooth - est Sleep! if

T  
get - ful - ness di - vine; O sooth - est Sleep! if

B  
get - ful - ness di - vine; O sooth - est Sleep!

*p dolce*

15

S  
so it please thee, close, In midst of this thine

A  
so it please thee, close, In midst of this thine

T  
8  
so it please thee, close, In midst of this thine

B  
close, In midst of this thine

## Sleep

18

S  
hymn, my will - ing eyes, Or wait A - men, A -

A  
hymn, my will - ing eyes, Or wait A - men, A -

T  
hymn, my will - ing eyes, Or wait A - men, A -

B  
hymn, my will - ing eyes, Or wait A - men, A -

*dim.* *p* *poco rit.*

22

S  
men, ere thy pop - py throws A - round my bed its

A  
men, (humming)

T  
men, (humming)

B  
men, (humming)

*sotto voce* *pp* *espress.*

26

S  
lull - ing, lull - ing) lull - ing char - i - ties;

A  
Its lull - ing char - i - ties;

T

B

*or:*

# Sleep

*poco a poco cresc.*

S Then save me, or the pass - èd

A Then save me, or the pass - èd

T Then save me, or the pass - èd

B Then save me, or the pass - èd

33

S day will shine Up - on my pil - low,

A day will shine Up - on my pil - low,

T day will shine Up - on my pil - low,

B day will shine Up - on my pil - low,

36

S breed - ing man - y woes, will shine up - on my pil - low,

A breed - ing woes, will shine up - on my pil - low,

T breed - ing woes, will shine up - on my pil - low,

B breed - ing man - y woes, will shine up - on my pil - low,

## Sleep

40 *poco dim.* *p*

S breed - ing man - y woes; Save me from cur - ious

A breed - ing man - y woes; Save me from cur - ious

T breed - ing man - y woes; Save me from cur - ious

B breed - ing man - y woes; Save me from cur - ious

43 *3*

S con - science, that still lords Its strength for

A con - science, that still lords Its strength for

T con - science, that still lords Its strength for

B con - science, that still lords Its strength for

45 *3* *espress.*

S dark - ness, bur - row - ing like a mole; Turn the *espress.*

A dark - ness, bur - row - ing like a mole; Turn the *espress.*

T dark - ness, bur - row - ing like a mole; Turn the *espress.*

B dark - ness, bur - row - ing like a mole;

# Sleep

49

S key, turn the key deft - ly in the

A key, turn the key deft - ly in the

T key, turn the key in the

B Turn, turn in the

52

*poco s poco dim. e fall. al fine*

S oil - - - èd wards, And seal the hush - èd

A oil - - - èd wards, And seal the hush - èd

T oil - - - èd wards, And seal the hush - èd

B oil - - - èd wards, And seal the hush - èd

55

S cask - et of my soul, of my soul.

A cask - et of my soul, of my soul.

T cask - et of my soul, of my soul.

B cask - et of my soul, of my soul.

*pp legatissimo*

*pp legatissimo*

*pp legatissimo*

*> pp > pp > ppp*

**Edward Maurice Besley** (1888–1945) was born in Normanby, Yorkshire, England, and was educated at Tonbridge School; Caius College, Cambridge; and the Leipzig Conservatorium. He was music master at Tonbridge School and became director of music and organist of Queen's College, Oxford. He directed the Oxford Orchestral Society and at times conducted the London Symphony Orchestra, the Royal Albert Hall Orchestra, and the Scottish Orchestra. He was served as Director of the Performing Rights Society and later was a solicitor and notary public. His compositions include orchestral works, musical plays, songs, choral works, piano pieces, works for violin, and transcriptions for orchestra.

O soft embalmer of the still midnight!  
Shutting with careful fingers and benign  
Our gloom-pleasèd eyes, embower'd from light,  
Enshaded in forgetfulness divine;  
O soothest Sleep! if so it please thee, close,  
In midst of this thine hymn, my willing eyes,  
Or wait Amen, ere thy poppy throws  
Around my bed its lulling charities;  
Then save me, or the passèd day will shine  
Upon my pillow, breeding many woes;  
Save me from curious conscience, that still lords  
Its strength for darkness, burrowing like a mole;  
Turn the key deftly in the oiled wards,  
And seal the hushèd casket of my soul.

John Keats (1795–1821)

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