



Ye little birds

George A. Macfarren
(1813-1887)

Andante quasi Allegretto

S
Ye lit - tle birds that sit and sing A - midst the shad - y val - leys, And

A
Ye lit - tle birds that sit and sing A - midst the shad - y val - leys, And

T
Ye lit - tle birds that sit and sing A - midst the shad - y val - leys, And

B
Ye lit - tle birds that sit and sing A - midst the shad - y val - leys, And—

Ye little birds

5

S see how Phil - lis sweet - ly walks With - in her gar - den - al - leys;

A see how Phil - lis sweet - ly walks With - in her gar - den - al - leys;

T see how Phil - lis sweet - ly walks With - in her gar - den - al - leys;

B see how Phil - lis sweet - ly walks With - in her gar - den - al - leys;

9

S Go, pret - ty birds, a - bout her bow'r, Sing, pret - ty birds, she may not low'r; Ah,

A Go, pret - ty birds, a - bout her bow'r, Sing, pret - ty birds, she may not low'r; Ah,

T Go, pret - ty birds, a - bout her bow'r, Sing, pret - ty birds, she may not low'r; Ah,

B Go, pret - ty birds, a - bout her bow'r, Sing, pret - ty birds, she may not low'r; Ah,

14

S me! Me - thinks I see her frown! Ye pret - ty wan - tons,

A me! Me - thinks I see her frown! Ye pret - ty wan - tons,

T me! Me - thinks I see her frown! Ye pret - ty wan - tons,

B me! Me - thinks I see her frown! Ye pret - ty wan - tons,

Ye little birds

19

S war - ble, war - ble.

A war - ble, war - ble.

T war - ble, Ye pret - ty wan - tons, war - ble.

B war - - - - ble, war - ble.

pp, *pp*, *pp*, *pp*, *dim.*, *p*, *pp*

S Go, tell her thro' your chirp - ing bills, As you by me are bid - den, To

A Go, tell her thro' your chirp - ing bills, As you by me are bid - den, To

T Go, tell her thro' your chirp - ing bills, As you by me are bid - den, To

B Go, tell her thro' your chirp - ing bills, As you by me are bid - den, To

p, *p*, *p*, *p*

29

S her is on - ly known my love, Which from the world is hid - den.

A her is on - ly known my love, Which from the world is hid - den.

T her is on - ly known my love, Which from the world is hid - den.

B her is on - ly known my love, Which from the world is hid - den.

p, *p*, *p*, *p*

Ye little birds

33

S And she that hath _____ the sweet - est voice, Tell her I will _____ not change my choice,

A And she that hath _____ the sweet - est voice, Tell her I will _____ not change my choice,

T And she that hath _____ the sweet - est voice, Tell her I will _____ not change my choice,

B And she that hath the sweet - est voice, Tell her I will not change my choice,

37

S Yet still, me - thinks I see her frown; Ye pret - ty ___ wan - tons, *mf*

A Yet still, me - thinks I see her frown; Ye pret - ty wan - tons, *mf*

T Yet still, me - thinks I see her frown; Ye pret - ty wan - tons, *mf*

B Yet still, me - thinks I see her frown; Ye pret - ty wan - tons, *mf*

43

S war - ble, war - ble. *pp*

A war - ble, war - ble. *pp*

T war - ble, Ye pret - ty ___ wan - tons, war - ble. *pp*

B war - - - - ble, war - ble. *pp*

Ye little birds

49

S *ff* Oh, fly! make haste! see, see, she falls *dim.* In - to a pret - ty

A *ff* Oh, fly! make haste! see, see, she falls *dim.* In - to a pret - ty

T *ff* Oh, fly! make haste! see, see, she falls *dim.* In - to a pret - ty

B *ff* Oh, fly! make haste! see, see, she falls *dim.* In - to a pret - ty

53

S slum - ber. Sing round a - bout her ros - y bed, *cresc.* sing round a - bout her

A slum - ber. Sing round a - bout her ros - y bed, *cresc.* sing round a - bout her

T slum - ber. Sing, _____ sing, _____ *cresc.*

B slum - ber. Sing round a - bout her ros - y bed, *cresc.* sing round a - bout her

57

S *pp* ros - y bed That, wak - ing, wak - ing, she may won - der.

A *pp* ros - y bed That, wak - ing, wak - ing, she may won - der.

T *pp* _____ That, wak - ing, wak - ing, she may won - der.

B *pp* ros - y bed That, wak - ing, wak - ing, she may won - der.

Ye little birds

62

S *'tis her lov - er true That send - eth*

A *'tis her lov - er true That send - eth*

T *dolce*
8 Sing to her, *'tis her lov - er true* That send - eth

B *'tis her lov - er true That send - eth*

66

S *pp* love, *cresc.* love, *p* love, love to

A *pp* love, *cresc.* love, *p* love to

T *pp* love, *cresc.* love, *p* love to

B *pp* love, *cresc.* love, *p* love

70

S *cresc.* her, to her by you, *f* That send - eth love to her by you;

A *cresc.* her, to her by you, *f* That send - eth love to her by you; *fp* And

T *cresc.* her, to her by you, *f* That send - eth love to her by you;

B *cresc.* to her by you, *f* That send - eth love to her by you;

Ye little birds

74

S *p* And when you hear her kind re - ply, *mf* Re - turn with

A — when you hear her kind re - ply, *mf* Re - turn with

T *p* And when you hear her kind re - ply, *mf* Re - turn with

B *p* And when you hear her kind re - ply, *mf* Re - turn with

79

S pleas - ant war - blings,

A pleas - ant war - blings,

T pleas - ant war - blings, *pp* Re - turn with pleas - ant

B pleas - ant war - - - - blings. *dim.*

84

S *pp* war - blings, pret - ty birds, pret - ty birds, pret - ty birds.

A *pp* war - blings, pret - ty birds, pret - ty birds, pret - ty birds.

T *pp* war - blings, go, go, pret - ty birds.

B *pp* war - blings, go, go, pret - ty birds.

Sir George Alexander Macfarren (1813-1887) was born in London. From early youth, he suffered from poor health and weak eyesight. His eyesight continually deteriorated until he became totally blind in 1860. However, his blindness had little effect on his productivity. Macfarren began to study music when he was fourteen and, at sixteen, entered the Royal Academy of Music. Because of his eyesight, he abandoned performance and concentrated on composition. He later taught at the Academy, eventually becoming a principal. He was also appointed professor of music at Cambridge University in 1875. He was conductor at Covent Garden, London; founder the Handel Society; program note writer for the Philharmonic Society; and editor of *Handel and Purcell*. He wrote 18 operas, 13 oratorios and cantatas, 9 symphonies, and 162 songs. He was active as writer of part-songs, literature for the many amateur choirs appearing throughout the country. He was knighted in 1883 on the same day as Arthur Sullivan and George Grove. His brother Walter Macfarren (1826-1905) was a pianist, composer and professor of the Royal Academy.

Ye little birds that sit and sing
Amidst the shady valleys,
And see how Phillis sweetly walks
Within her garden-alleys;
Go, pretty birds, about her bower,
Sing, she may not lower;
Ah, me! methinks I see her frown!
Ye pretty wantons, warble.

Go, tell her through your chirping bills,
As you by me are bidden,
To her is only known my love,
Which from the world is hidden.
And she that hath the sweet-est voice,
Tell her I will not change my choice,
Yet still, methinks I see her frown;
Ye pretty wantons, warble.

Oh, fly! make haste! see, see, she falls
Into a pretty slumber.
Sing round about her rosy bed
That, waking, she may wonder.
Sing to her, 'tis her lover true
That sendeth love to her by you;
And when you hear her kind reply,
Return with pleasant warblings.

Thomas Heywood (1574–1641)
Originally published in *Fair Maid of the Exchange* (1607).

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