



Sweetest
Melancholy

Walter E. Macfarren
(1828-1905)

Sweetest Melancholy

W. C. Macfarren

Allegro ♩ = 132

S Hence, all you vain de - lights, As short as are the nights Where - in you spend your

A Hence, all you vain de - lights, As short as nights Where - in you spend your

T Hence, all you vain de - lights, Short as are the nights Where - in you spend your

B Hence, all you vain de - lights, As short as are the__ nights Where - in you spend your

dim. *p* *cresc.*

S fol - ly! There's nought in__ this life sweet, If man were wise to see't, But

A fol - ly! There's nought in this life sweet, If man were wise, But

T fol - ly! Nought in this life sweet, If man were__ wise, But

B fol - ly!__ There's nought in__ this life sweet, If man were wise to__ see't, But

f *dim.* *p*



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8

S on - ly mel - an - cho - ly, But on - ly mel - an - cho - ly—

A on - ly mel - an - cho - ly, But on - ly mel - an - cho - ly—

T on - ly mel - an - cho - ly, But on - ly mel - an - cho - ly—

B on - ly mel - an - cho - ly, But on - ly mel - an - cho - ly—

13

S Oh, sweet-est mel - an-cho - ly! Oh, sweet-est mel - an-cho - ly! —

A Oh, sweet-est mel - an - cho - ly! Oh, sweet - est - mel - an - cho - ly!

T Oh, sweet-est mel - - - an - cho - ly! mel - an - cho - ly!

B Oh, sweet-est, sweet - est - mel - an - cho - ly! —

19

S Wel - come, fold - ed arms, and fix - èd eyes, A sigh that pierc - ing

A Wel - come, fold - ed arms, fix - èd eyes, A sigh that pierc - ing

T Wel - come, fold - ed arms, and fix - èd eyes, A sigh that pierc - ing

B Wel - come, fold - ed arms, fix'd eyes, A — sigh that pierc - ing

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23

S mor - ti - fies, A look that's fas - ten'd on the ground, A

A mor - ti - fies, Wel - come, wel - come, A

T mor - ti - fies, A look that's fas - ten'd on the ground, A

B mor - ti - fies, Wel - come, wel - come, A

26

S tongue chain'd up with - out a sound! Wel - come. Foun - tain-heads and

A tongue chain'd up with - out a sound! Wel - come. Foun - tain-heads and

T tongue chain'd up with - out a sound! Wel - come. Foun - tain and

B tongue chain'd up with - out a sound! Wel - come. Foun - tain and

30

S path - less groves, Plac - es which pale pas - sion loves! Moon - light walks, when

A path - less groves, Wel - come, wel - come, Moon - light

T path - less groves, Plac - es pas - sion loves! Moon - light

B path - less groves, Wel - come, wel - come, All

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S all the fowls Are warm - ly hous'd, save bats and owls! A

A walks, when all hous'd, save bats and owls! A

T walks, when all hous'd, save bats and owls! A

B hous'd, all hous'd, save bats and owls! A

dim. *pp* *ff*

38

S mid - night bell, a part - ing groan— These are the

A mid - night bell, a part - ing — groan— These are the

T mid - night bell, a part - ing groan— These are the

B mid - night bell, a part - ing — groan— These are the

43

S sounds we feed — up - on: Then stretch our — bones, Then —

A sounds we feed — up - on: Then stretch our — bones, Then —

T sounds we feed — up - on: Then stretch our — bones, Then —

B sounds we feed — up - on: Then stretch our — bones, Then —

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47

S stretch our_ bones in a still, *dim.* gloom - y val - ley, *p* No - thing's so sweet, so

A stretch our_ bones in a still, *dim.* gloom - y val - ley, *p* No - thing's so sweet, so

T stretch our_ bones in a still, *dim.* gloom - y val - ley, *p* No - thing's so sweet, so

B stretch our_ bones in a still, *dim.* gloom - y val - ley,

52

S dain - ty sweet As love - ly mel - an - cho - *cresc.*

A dain - ty sweet As love - ly mel - an - cho - *cresc.*

T dain - ty sweet As love - ly mel - an - cho - *cresc.*

B *p* O love - ly mel - an - cho - *cresc.*

57

S *mf* ly. Oh, sweet - est mel - an - cho - ly! *cresc.* Oh, sweet - est

A *mf* ly. Oh, sweet - est mel - an - cho - ly! *cresc.* Oh,

T *mf* ly. Oh, sweet - est, sweet - - - est *cresc.*

B *mf* ly. Oh, sweet - est mel - an - cho - ly! *cresc.* Oh,

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61

S
mel - an - cho - ly! Oh, sweet - est mel - an - cho - - - - ly!

A
sweet - est, Oh, sweet - est mel - an - cho - - - - ly!

T
mel - an - cho - ly! Oh, sweet - est mel - an - cho - - - - ly!

B
sweet - est, Oh, sweet - est mel - an - cho - - - - ly!

Novello, Ewer and Co.
(1860-1885)

Walter Cecil Macfarren (1826–1905) was in London, the younger brother of one of the leading Victorian composers, George Alexander Macfarren. He was a chorister at Westminster Abbey and sang at Queen Victoria's coronation. He had thoughts of becoming an artist, taking lessons in painting, but entered the Royal Academy of Music, studying the pianoforte and composition. He became a sub-professor of the pianoforte and was on the staff of the Royal Academy fifty-seven years. Macfarren was musical critic for the 'Queen' newspaper from 1862 until his death. He was chiefly concerned with teaching the piano and had some distinction as a conductor. He suffered from weak eyesight, but did not become totally blind, as did his brother. He composed many small pianoforte pieces and choral works, including two church services and many part-songs. He wrote no large-scale choral or dramatic works and wrote only a limited amount of orchestral music.

Hence, all you vain delights,
As short as are the nights
Wherein you spend your folly!
There 's naught in this life sweet,
If men were wise to see't,
But only melancholy—
O sweetest melancholy!
Welcome, folded arms and fixèd eyes,
A sight that piercing mortifies,
A look that 's fasten'd to the ground,
A tongue chain'd up without a sound!

Fountain-heads and pathless groves,
Places which pale passion loves!
Moonlight walks, when all the fowls
Are warmly housed, save bats and owls!
A midnight bell, a parting groan—
These are the sounds we feed upon:
Then stretch our bones in a still gloomy valley,
Nothing 's so dainty sweet as lovely melancholy.

from "The Nice Valour"
John Fletcher (1579–1625)

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