



A Cradle Song

John Pointer
(1858–1934)

John Pointer (1868–1934) was born in ham, Chester, England. He was active as a pianist, conductor, and composer, and was a long-time editor for Novello and Company, music publishers in London. His most significant work was with editions of Bach cantatas, works by Purcell, and works by Samuel Coleridge-Taylor. He worked with John E. West, chief editor at Novello, to bring out Elgar's principal works. He was skilled as an orchestrator, particularly in connection with light opera. As composer, he mainly wrote songs and part-songs.

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 Pointer

Lento ma non troppo $\text{♩} = 72$

Soprano (S): Sleep, sleep, beau - ty bright, Dream - ing in the joys of night;
Alto (A): Sleep, sleep,— beau - ty bright,— Dream - ing in the joys of night;
Tenor (T): Sleep, sleep,— beau - ty bright,— Dream - ing in the joys of night;—
Bass (B): —————— Dream - ing in the night;—

5
poco cresc.

Soprano (S): Sleep, sleep; in thy sleep Lit - tle sor - rows sit and weep,
Alto (A): Sleep,— sleep;— in thy sleep— Lit - tle sor - rows sit and weep,
Tenor (T): Sleep,— sleep;— in thy sleep— sor - rows weep,—
Bass (B): Sleep,— sleep;— in thy sleep— Lit - tle sor - rows sit— and

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Sleep, sleep; in thy sleep Lit - tle sor - rows sit and weep.

A Sleep, sleep; in thy sleep Lit - tle sor - rows sit and weep.

T Sleep, sleep; in thy sleep Lit - tle sor - rows sit and weep.

B weep, sor - - - - - rows weep.

This musical score consists of four staves, one for each voice: Soprano (S), Alto (A), Tenor (T), and Bass (B). The key signature is three flats, and the time signature is common time (indicated by '3'). The vocal parts sing a simple melody with eighth and sixteenth note patterns. The lyrics are: "Sleep, sleep; in thy sleep Lit - tle sor - rows sit and weep." The bass part has a prominent eighth-note pattern in the middle of the measure.

Poco più mosso $\text{♩} = 80$

14

S

A pp dolce Sweet babe, in thy

T pp dolce Sweet babe, in thy

B pp dolce Sweet babe, in thy

Sweet babe, in thy

This section begins with a dynamic marking of "Poco più mosso" and a tempo of $\text{♩} = 80$. The vocal parts continue with the lyrics: "Sweet babe, in thy". The alto and tenor voices enter with a melodic line, while the soprano and bass provide harmonic support. The bass part features sustained notes and eighth-note patterns.

18

S pp Se - cret joys and se - cret

A face Soft de - sires I can trace, Se - cret joys and se - cret

T face Soft de - sires I can trace, Se - cret

B face Soft de - sires I can trace, Se - cret

face Soft de - sires I can trace, Se - cret

This section continues with the lyrics: "Se - cret joys and se - cret". The vocal parts maintain their melodic lines, with the bass providing harmonic depth. The bass part includes sustained notes and eighth-note patterns throughout the section.

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S smiles, Lit - the pret - ty in - fant wiles. As thy soft - est
 A smiles, Lit - the pret - ty in - fant wiles. As thy
 T joys and smiles, Pret - ty in - fant wiles. As thy soft -
 B smiles, Pret - ty in - fant wiles. As thy

26

S limbs I feel Smiles as of the morn - ing steal O'er thy cheek, and
 A limbs I feel Smiles as of the morn - ing steal O'er thy
 T - est limbs I feel Smiles as of the morn - ing steal O'er thy cheek,
 B limbs I feel Smiles as of the morn - ing steal O'er thy

30

S o'er thy breast Where thy lit - tle heart doth rest. O the cun - ning
 A breast Where thy lit - tle heart doth rest. O the
 T thy breast Where thy heart doth rest. O the
 B breast Where thy heart doth rest. O the

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wiles that creep In thy lit - tle heart a-sleep! When thy lit - tle
wiles that creep In thy heart a-sleep! When thy lit - tle heart
cun - ning wiles that creep In thy heart a - sleep! When thy heart
wiles that creep In thy heart a - sleep! When thy heart

poco rit. *p a tempo*

38

heart doth wake, Then the dread - ful night shall break.
— doth wake, Then the dread - ful night shall break.
— doth wake, Then the dread - ful night shall break.
doth wake, The night shall break.

rit. *rit.* *rit.*

Tempo 1 ($\text{♩} = 72$)

42

Sleep, sleep, beau - ty bright, Dream - ing in the joys of night;
Sleep, sleep, beau - ty bright, Dream - ing in the joys of night;
Sleep, sleep, beau - ty bright, Dream - ing in the joys of night;
Dream - ing in the joys of night;

pp *pp* *pp*

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46

S *poco cresc.*

A

T

B

Sleep, sleep; in thy sleep Lit - tle sor - rows sit and
 Sleep, sleep; in thy sleep Lit - tle sor - rows sit
 Sleep, sleep; in thy sleep Lit - tle sor - rows sit and
 Sleep, sleep; in thy sleep Lit - tle sor - rows sit

dim. *pp*

50

S weep, Sleep, sleep, sleep.
 A — and weep, Sleep, sleep.
 T weep, Sleep, sleep, sleep, sleep.
 B — and weep, Sleep, sleep, sleep, sleep.

pp

Stainer & Bell
(1913)

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