

Sleep softly now

for SATB Chorus (divisi) unaccompanied

Music by Joshua Fishbein

Words Anonymous (late 14th century)

PREVIEW
Review copy only

*Lullay, lullow, lully, lullay,
Bewy*, bewy, lully, bewy,
Lully, lullow, lully, lullay,
Baw, baw, my bairne**,
Sleep softly now.*

*I saw a sweet and seemly sight,
A blissful birde***, a blossom bright,
That mourning made and mirth of-mang****.*

*Lullay, lullow, lully, lullay,
Bewy, bewy, lully, bewy,
Lully, lullow, lully, lullay,
Baw, baw, my bairne,
Sleep softly now.*

*A maiden mother, meek and mild,
In cradle kept [an angel]***** child
That softly slept,
She sat and sang:*

*Lullay, lullow, lully, lullay,
Bewy, bewy, lully, bewy,
Lully, lullow, lully, lullay,
Baw, baw, my bairne,
Sleep softly now.*

Anonymous
(late 14th century),
edited by the composer.

Note: The text has been edited by the composer from the original Middle English in order to adhere to modern spellings and grammar. In general, Middle English words have been replaced with their modern equivalents and modern pronunciation is acceptable, with the following notable exceptions:

"Lullay," "lullow," "lully," "bewy," and "baw" are all baby noises and have not been altered from the original. Stress should be placed on the last syllable. For example: "Lul-lay," "lul-low," "lul-ly," "bew-y."

* The "e" of "bewy" is pronounced open, as in "Edward" or "elephant."

** "Bairne" means "child" in Middle English. In modern pronunciation, the two vowels "ai" are pronounced as in "air." The final "e" is kept silent in modern pronunciation.

*** "Birde" means "young woman" in Middle English. It can be pronounced like "bird" in Modern English. As in "bairne," the final "e" is kept silent in modern pronunciation.

**** "Of-mang" means "meanwhile" or "at the same time." It is unique to a northern Middle English dialect. The "mang" in "of-mang" is pronounced like the fruit, "mango."

***** "An angel" was chosen by the composer to replace "a knave" (a male) from the original version.

for Naomi

Sleep softly now

for SATB Chorus (divisi) unaccompanied

Anonymous, late 14th century

Joshua Fishbein

Andantino, swinging gently ♩ = 78

pp delicately *p* cantabile *cresc.*

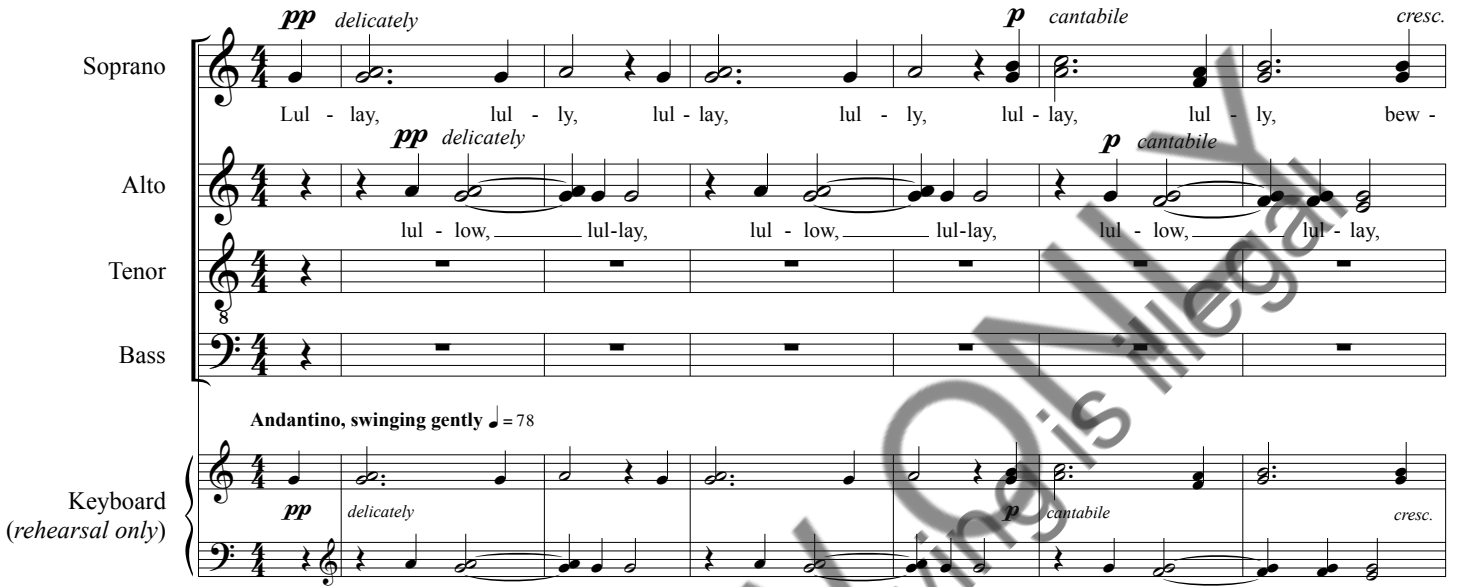
Soprano
Lul - lay, lul - ly, lul - lay, lul - ly, lul - lay, lul - ly, bew -

Alto
lul - low, lul - lay, lul - low, lul - lay, lul - low, lul - lay,

Tenor
-

Bass
-

Keyboard (rehearsal only)
pp delicately *p* cantabile *cresc.*



broadening *mp* *p* *pp*

7
S
y, *cresc.* lul - ly, ³ lul - low, baw, baw, my ³ bairne, sleep soft - ly,

A
lul - ly, *cresc.* bew - y, lul - ly, lul - lay, baw, baw, my bairne, sleep soft - ly,

T
-

B
-

[Ooh] [ooh]

broadening *mp* *p* *pp*

8



12 *(pp) dim.* *poco rit.*

S soft - ly now. *(pp) dim.*

A soft - ly now. *(pp) dim.*

T [ooh] sleep soft - ly, soft - ly *pp dim.* *p* *mp* *p*

B [ooh] sleep soft - ly, soft - ly *pp dim.* *p* *mp* *p* *poco rit.*

17 **Brisker, with repressed excitement** ♩ = 98

S *p (delicately)* *pp hushed*
Lul - lay, lul - ly, lul - lay, lul - ly, [m] [m] [m]

A *p (delicately)* *pp hushed*
lul - low, lul - lay, lul - low, lul - lay, [m] [m]

T *pp* *mp cantabile*
now. I saw a sweet and seem - ly

B *pp* *mp cantabile*
now. I saw a sweet and seem - ly

Brisker, with repressed excitement ♩ = 98

p (delicately) *pp* *mp cantabile*

23

S *p* *pp*

A *p* *pp*

T *mf* *p*

B *mf* *p*

sight, a bliss-ful birde, a blos - som bright, that mourn-ing

sight, a bliss - ful birde, a blos - som bright, that mourn - ing

p *pp* *mf* *p*

29

S *mp* *mf*

A *mp* *mf*

T *mp* *mf*

B *mp* *mf*

made and mirth of - mang, mirth of - mang.

made and mirth of - mang.

broadening

broadening

Faster than tempo primo, but still gentle ♩ = 86

33

p *poco cresc.* *pp*

S Lul - lay, lul - ly, bew - y lul - ly, lul - lay, [Ooh]

p *poco cresc.*

A lul - low, lul - lay, bew - y, lul - ly, lul - lay, [Ooh]

stay strong

T bew - y, lul - ly, lul -

stay strong

B bew - y, [Ooh]

Faster than tempo primo, but still gentle ♩ = 86

p *poco cresc.* *pp*

[Musical notation for piano accompaniment]

pressing forward (♩ = 92) e accelerando

38

p *mp*

S lul - ly, lul - low, baw, baw, my bairne, [Ooh]

pp [Ooh] *p* *(p)* [Ooh] *mp*

A [Ooh] lul - ly, lul - lay, [Ooh] [Ooh]

T low, [Ooh] *pp* [Ooh] *p* [Ooh] *(p)* [Ooh] *mp*

B lul - ly, lul - lay, [Ooh] *pp* [Ooh] *p* [Ooh]

pressing forward (♩ = 92) e accelerando

p *mp*

[Musical notation for piano accompaniment]

Faster, building momentum ♩ = 96

molto rit.

42

S
baw, baw, my bairne, baw, my

A
baw, baw, my bairne, baw, my

T
8
baw, my bairne, baw, my bairne, stay strong

B
my bairne, baw, baw, my bairne, stay strong

mp *mf* *molto*

Faster, building momentum ♩ = 96

molto rit.

mp *mf* *molto*

Slower, unwinding ♩ = 64

47

S
bairne, sleep soft - ly, soft - ly, sleep soft - ly, soft - ly,

A
bairne, sleep soft - ly, soft - ly, sleep soft - ly, soft - ly,

T
8
sleep soft - ly, sleep soft - ly, soft - ly, soft - ly,

B
sleep soft - ly, sleep soft - ly, soft - ly, soft - ly,

sub. mp *p* *mp* *(mp)* *p* *pp*

Slower, unwinding ♩ = 64

sub. mp *p* *mp* *p* *pp*

poco rit.

Tempo primo, pacing with rubato (♩ = 78)

pressing forward

52

S
Lul-lay, lul - lay, — lul - ly, — lul-lay, lul - lay, — lul - ly, lul -

A
ly, — lul-low, — lul - lay, — lul-low, lul - low,

T
soft - ly now.

B
soft - ly now.

pp *pp* *pp* *p* *mp*

poco rit. *Tempo primo, pacing with rubato (♩ = 78)* *pressing forward*

56

S
bew - y, bew - y, lul - ly, — lul - low, — lul -

A
lul - lay, lul - ly, lul - ly, lul - ly,

T
lul - lay, lul - ly, lul - ly,

B

mf *mp* *p* *pp*

relaxing *poco rit.*

mf *mp* *p* *pp*

relaxing *poco rit.*

Faster, flowing smoothly ♩ = 88

60

S *ppp* ly, lul - lay, [m] [m]

A *pp* *ppp* lul - lay, [m] [m]

T *mp cantabile* A maid - en moth - er, meek and mild,

B *mp cantabile* A maid - en moth - er, meek and mild,

Faster, flowing smoothly ♩ = 88

pp *ppp* *mp cantabile* *pp*

Optional cut to m. 81

66

S *p* [m] *pp* [m]

A *p* [m] *pp* [m]

T *mf* *mp* *mf* *molto* *p* in cra - die kept, an - gel child

B *mf* *mp* *mf* *molto* *p* in cra - die kept an an - gel child

Optional cut to m. 81

mf *p* *mp* *mf* *molto* *p*

Suddenly faster $\text{♩} = 56$

71

S *mp cantabile* A maid-en moth - er, meek and mild, *mf* kept,

A *mp cantabile* A maid-en moth - er, meek and mild, *mf* in cra - dle kept an *molto*

T [m]

B

mp cantabile *mp* *mf* *molto*

Suddenly faster $\text{♩} = 56$

mp cantabile *mp* *mf* *molto*

77

S *sub. p* an - gel,

A *sub. p* an - gel, *mp* an - gel child, *molto* *p*

T *mf* an - gel child, *molto* *p*

B *mf* an - gel child, *molto* *p*

pressing forward *sub. p* *mp* *mf* *molto* *p*

pressing forward *sub. p* *mp* *mf* *molto* *p*

easing up ⊕

easing up ⊕

* omit after cut

A little slower, but still briskly ♩ = 106

82 *pp* *p lightly* *mp*

S that soft - ly slept, she sat and sang, she sat and

A that soft - ly slept, she sat and sang,

T she

B she

A little slower, but still briskly ♩ = 106 *p lightly* *mp*

pp *p lightly* *mp*

driving forward

allargando

Stately, deliberate ♩ = 80

87 *(mp)* *mf* *fp* *f*

S sang, she sat and sang: Lul - lay, lul -

A she sat and sang: Lul - lay, lul -

T sat, she sat and sang: Lul - lay, lul - low,

B sat, she sat and sang: Lul - lay, lul - low,

driving forward *allargando* *Stately, deliberate* ♩ = 80

mp *mf* *fp* *f*

Faster again, building momentum ♩ = 90

93

S ly, bew - y, lul - ly, ³ lul - low baw, baw, my bairne,

A ly, bew - y, lul - ly, lul - low, baw, baw, my bairne,

T — lul - lay, lul - ly, — lul - ly, — lul - lay, baw, baw, baw,

B — lul - lay, bew - y, lul - ly, ³ lul - lay, baw, baw, baw, —

mf *molto* *sub. p*

Faster again, building momentum ♩ = 90

98

S baw, baw, my bairne, baw, my

A baw, baw, my bairne, baw, my

T baw, my bairne, baw, baw, my bairne, stay strong

B baw, my bairne, baw, baw, my bairne, stay strong

mp *mf* *molto rit.*

accelerando *mp* *mf* *molto rit.*

Resolved, relaxed ♩ = 86

103 *f* *molto* *sub. mp* *p*

S bairne, sleep soft - ly now, —

A bairne, sleep soft - ly now, —

T sleep soft - ly, sleep soft - ly now, — sleep

B sleep soft - ly, sleep soft - ly, sleep

f *sub. mp* *p* *mp* (*mp*)

Resolved, relaxed ♩ = 86

poco rit. Fast asleep, dreaming ♩ = 92

108 *p* (*delicately*) *pp* hushed

S [m] [m] [m] [m]

A *p* (*delicately*) *pp* hushed

T soft - ly now, soft - - ly

B soft - ly now, soft - - ly

p *mp* *pp* *mp*

poco rit. Fast asleep, dreaming ♩ = 92

poco rit.

113

S *(pp)* [m] [m] [m]

A *(pp)* [m] [m] *p* soft - ly

T *p* now, *(p)* soft,

B now, soft - - - - - ly

p *(p)* *(pp)* *p*

Mechanically, fading into the distance $\text{♩} = 46$

118

S *(pp)* now. *ppp* [Ooh] *ppp* [ooh] *dim.* [ooh]

A *pp* now, *ppp* [Ooh] *ppp* [ooh]

T *pp* now. *ppp* [Ooh]

B now. *pp* [Ooh] *ppp*

pp *ppp* *ppp* *ppp* *ppp* *ppp* *ppp* *ppp* *ppp* *ppp*

Mechanically, fading into the distance $\text{♩} = 46$

* Fade-out gradually, repeating and *dim. al niente.*