

A Cradle Song

for Four Alto Soli,*
SATB Chorus (divisi) unaccompanied

William Blake (1757–1827)

Nestor Taylor

N. T., alt.

Andante sostenuto ♩ = c. 63

2 soli p, soave

1
Alto
Sweet dreams, form a shade O-'er my love-ly in-fant's head; Sweet dreams of pleas-ant streams By

2 soli p, soave

2
Sweet dreams, sweet dreams, mm; Sweet dreams, pleas-ant streams,

4

S *p, soave e molto legato*
Sweet sleep, with soft down Weave thy brows an in-fant crown

1 *(2 soli) tutti*
hap-py, - si-lent, moon-y beams. Sweet sleep, soft down, mm,

A *(2 soli) tutti*
mm. Sweet sleep, soft down, mm,

2 *(2 soli) tutti*
mm. Sweet sleep, soft down, mm,

T *p, soave e molto legato*
Sweet sleep, soft down, mm,

B *p, soave e molto legato*
Sweet sleep, soft down, mm,

Keyboard (for rehearsal only)

* If the choir consists of eight singers, two altos may be used instead.

7 *p* *mf* *calando* *p* *mp* **Lo stesso movimento, ma più deciso**

S Sweet sleep, An-gel mild, Hov-er o'er my hap-py child. Sweet smiles, sweet night, my

A *p (unis.)* *mf div. unis.* *p* *mp, en dehors, ma sempre dolce*

T Sweet sleep, An-gel mild, mm. Sweet smiles, in the night Hov-er

B *p* *mf div.* *ossia* *p* *mp, en dehors, ma sempre dolce unis.*

Sweet sleep, An-gel mild, mm. Sweet smiles, in the night Hov-er

calando

Lo stesso movimento, ma più deciso

11 *mf* *mp* *en dehors, ma sempre dolce*

de - light; Sweet smiles, sweet smiles, All be - guiles. Sweet

o-ver my de-light; Sweet smiles, Moth-er's smiles, All the live-long night be-guiles. Sweet

en dehors, ma sempre dolce

de - light; Sweet smiles, sweet smiles, All be - guiles. Sweet

div. unis. div. unis. *mf* *mp*

o-ver my de-light; Sweet smiles, Moth-er's smiles, All the live-long night be-guiles. Sweet

14

moans, dove-like sighs, Chase not slum-ber from thy eyes. Sweet moans, sweet-er smiles, All the

div. *unis.* *div.* *unis.*

moans, sweet sighs, slum - ber, eyes. Sweet moans, sweet smiles, All —

moans, sweet sighs, Chase not slum-ber from thy eyes. Sweet, — sweet moans, and All the

moans, sweet sighs, slum - ber, eyes. Sweet, — sweet moans, and All the

17

mf *div.* Sleep, sleep, hap - py child, *unis.*

dove-like moans be-guiles. Sleep, hap - py child, All cre - a - tion slept and smil'd;

mf *div.* *unis.* *div.*

— be - guiles. Sleep, hap - py child, sleep, hap - py child,

mf *div.* *unis.*

smiles be - guiles. Sleep, hap - py child, sleep, sleep, hap - py child,

mf *div.* *unis.*

smiles be - guiles. Sleep, sleep, hap - py child,

20 *div.* Sleep, sleep, hap-py sleep, *mp* *unis.* *sf, dolce*

Sleep, hap - py sleep, While o-er thee thy moth-er weep. *div. p, oscuro*

mp unis. div. *unis. div. unis. sf, dolce* Sweet babe, in thy face

Sleep, hap - py sleep, thy moth - er weep. Sweet _ babe, _

mp div. *unis. div. unis. sf, dolce*

Sleep, hap - py sleep, thy moth - er weep.

div. Sleep, hap - py sleep, mp unis. sf, dolce div. p, oscuro Ah,

Sleep, thy moth - er weep.

Un poco animando

23 *div. p, oscuro* *mp, cresc.* Sweet babe, once like thee, Thy mak-er lay and wept for me,

Ho - ly im - age. Sweet babe, once like thee, once, Thy mak - er,

Ho - ly im-age I can trace. *mp, cresc.* Sweet _ babe, Thy mak-er lay and wept for me,

Ho - ly im - age. Sweet _ babe, _ once, Thy ma - ker,

mp, cresc. *div.* Sweet babe, once, Thy mak - er,

mp, cresc. Sweet _ babe, _

Ho - ly im - age. Sweet babe, once, Thy mak - er,

Un poco animando

26 *non troppo f, marcato* Wept for me, for thee, for all, *unis.* *calmandosi* **Più animando e grandioso**
sub. p, dolce
 Wept for me, When he was an in-fant small. Thou his im-age ev-er see,

non troppo f, marcato *unis.* *sub. p, dolce*
 Wept for me, for thee, for all. Heav-en-ly face

non troppo f, marcato *sub. p, dolce*
 Heav-en-ly face
 Wept for me, for thee, for all. Thou his im-age ev-er see,

non troppo f, marcato *sub. p, dolce*
 Wept for me, for thee, for all. Heav-en-ly face

Più animando e grandioso
calmandosi

29

Heav-en-ly face that smiles on thee, Smiles on thee, on me, on all; ____ Who be-came an in-fant small.

smiles ____ on thee, Smiles ____ on all; in - fant small. ____

smiles on thee, Smiles on thee, on me, on all; in - fant small. ____

Heav-en-ly face that smiles on thee, Smiles ____ on all; in - - fant small.

smiles on thee, Smiles ____ on all; in - fant small. ____

a tempo

cresc. molto

div. f, dim.,

div. cresc. molto

f, dim. unis.

cresc. molto

f, dim. unis.

ossia

cresc. molto

f, dim.

a tempo

32 *poco cresc.* In - fant smiles are his own smiles; *mf, sost. molto rit.* *, unis.* *dim.* *p*

In - - fant smiles; Heav - en and earth to peace be - guiles.

poco cresc. *mf, sost.* *dim.* *p*

In - fant smiles; to peace be - guiles.

poco cresc. *mf, sost.* *dim.* *p*

In - - fant smiles; to peace be - guiles.

poco cresc. *mf, sost.* *dim.* *ossia p*

In - - fant smiles; to peace be - guiles.

molto rit.

Papagou, Greece
 25 December 2003
 c. 2'20"