

# Lullaby my sweet little baby

Psalmes, sonets, & songs, 1588, no.32

William Byrd

Superius  
[Soprano]

Medius  
[Alto]  
*The first singing part*

Contratenor  
[Alto]

Tenor  
[Tenor]

Bassus  
[Bass]

Lul - la, lul - la - by, lul - la -

Lul - la, lul - la - by, lul - la -

Lul - la, lul - la, lul - la, lul - la -

Lul - la, lul - la - by, lul - la - by, la lul - la -

4

S.

A.

A.

T.

B.

by, lul - la lul - la - by, lul - la, lul - la -

Lul - la, lul - la - by, lul - la lul - la -

by, lul - la - by, lul - la lul - la, lul - la -

by, lul - la, lul - la - by, la lul - la, lul - la -

by, lul - la - by la lul - la, lul - la - by,

8

S.

A.

A.

T.

B.

- by, my sweet lit - tle ba - by, my sweet lit - tle

- by, my sweet lit - tle ba - by,

- by, my sweet lit - tle ba - by, ba - by, my sweet lit - tle

- by, my sweet lit - tle, lit - tle ba -

my sweet lit - tle ba - by, my sweet lit - tle

11

S. *ba - by, my sweet lit - tle ba - by, what mean - est thou*

A. *my sweet lit - tle ba - by, what mean - est thou*

A. *ba - by, ba - by, what mean - est thou to*

T. *- by, my sweet lit - tle ba - by, what mean - est thou to*

B. *ba - by, what mean - est thou to cry, to*

14

S. *to cry, Lul - la, lul - la - by, la lul - la, lul -*

A. *to cry, Lul - la, lul - la - by,*

A. *cry, Lul - la, lul - la - by, la lul - la, lul - la -*

T. *cry, Lul - la, lul - la - by, lul - la -*

B. *cry, Lul - la, lul - la - by, la lul - la, lul - la*

17

S. *- la, lul - la - by, la lul - la, lul - la - by, la*

A. *lul - la, lul - la - by, la lul - la, lul - la - by,*

A. *- by, la lul - la, lul - la - by, la lul - la, lul - la - by, la*

T. *- by, by la lul - la - by,*

B. *lul - la - by, la lul - la - by, la*

20

S. lul - la, la lul - la - by, la lul - la - by, la lul -

A. la lul - la, la lul - la - by, la lul - la - by,

A. lul - la, lul - la - by, la lul - la - by, la lul - la

T. la lul - la, la lul - la - by, la lul - la, lul -

B. lul - la - by, la lul - la, lul - la, la lul - la, lul - la, la

23

[ o -> o ]

S. - la - by, lul - la - by, my sweet lit - tle ba - by, ba - - by.

A. Lul - la - by, my sweet lit - tle ba - - by.

A. lul - la - by my sweet lit - tle ba - by, sweet ba - by.

T. - la - by, lul - la - by my sweet lit - tle ba - by, ba - by.

B. lul - la - by, lul - la - by, my sweet lit - tle ba - by.

The Second Part

27

S.    
 1. Be still my bles - sed babe,   
 2. Three kings this King of kings,   
 3. Lo, \_\_\_\_\_ my lit - tle babe,   
 4. But thou shalt live and reign,

A.    
 1. Be still my   
 2. Three kings this   
 3. Lo, \_\_\_\_\_ my   
 4. But thou shalt

A.    
 1. Be still my bles - sed \_\_\_\_\_ babe, my bles - sed \_\_\_\_\_   
 2. Three kings this King of \_\_\_\_\_ kings, this King of \_\_\_\_\_   
 3. Lo, \_\_\_\_\_ my lit - tle babe, my lit - tle \_\_\_\_\_   
 4. But thou shalt live and \_\_\_\_\_ reign, shalt live and \_\_\_\_\_

T.    
 1. Be still my bles - sed babe, bles - sed babe, be   
 2. Three kings this King of kings, King of kings, three   
 3. Lo, \_\_\_\_\_ my lit - tle babe, lit - tle babe, lo,   
 4. But thou shalt live and reign, live and reign, but

B.    
 1. Be still my bles - sed babe, bles - sed babe, be   
 2. Three kings this King of kings, King of kings, three   
 3. Lo, \_\_\_\_\_ my lit - tle babe, lit - tle babe, lo,   
 4. But thou shalt live and reign, live and reign, but

31

S.    
 my bles - sed babe, though cause \_\_\_\_\_ thou hast \_\_\_\_\_   
 this King of kings, to see \_\_\_\_\_ are come \_\_\_\_\_   
 my lit - tle babe, be still, \_\_\_\_\_ la - ment \_\_\_\_\_   
 shalt live and reign, as Si - byls have \_\_\_\_\_

A.    
 bles - sed babe, though cause thou   
 King of kings, to see are   
 lit - tle babe, be still, la -   
 live and reign, as Si - byls

A.    
 \_\_\_\_\_ babe, though cause thou hast to mourn, to \_\_\_\_\_   
 \_\_\_\_\_ kings to see are come from far, from \_\_\_\_\_   
 \_\_\_\_\_ babe, be still, la - ment no more, no \_\_\_\_\_   
 \_\_\_\_\_ reign, as Si - byls have fore - said, fore -

T.    
 still my bles - sed babe, though cause thou hast   
 kings this King of kings, to see are come   
 lo, my lit - tle babe, be still, la - ment   
 thou shalt live and reign, as Si - byls have

B.    
 still my bles - sed \_\_\_\_\_ babe, though cause thou hast \_\_\_\_\_

35

S. \_\_\_\_\_ to mourn, though cause thou hast to mourn,  
 \_\_\_\_\_ from far, to see are come from far,  
 \_\_\_\_\_ no more, be still, la - ment no more,  
 \_\_\_\_\_ fore - said, as Si - byls have fore - said,

A. hast come to mourn: whose blood most  
 - come from far, to each un -  
 - ment no more, from fu - ry  
 have fore - said, as all the

A. \_\_\_\_\_ mourn: whose blood most in - no - cent to \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_ far, to each un - known, with off - er - ings  
 \_\_\_\_\_ more, from fu - ry shalt thou step a -  
 - said, as all the Pro - phets pro - phe -

T. to mourn, to \_\_\_\_\_ mourn: whose blood most in - no -  
 from far, from \_\_\_\_\_ far, to each un - known, un -  
 no more, no \_\_\_\_\_ more, from fu - ry shalt thou  
 fore - said, fore - said, as all the Pro - phets \_\_\_\_\_

B. \_\_\_\_\_ to mourn: whose blood most in - no - cent  
 \_\_\_\_\_ from far, to each un - known, \_\_\_\_\_ with  
 \_\_\_\_\_ no more, from fu - ry shalt thou  
 \_\_\_\_\_ fore - said, as all the Pro - phets pro -

39

S. whose blood most in - no - cent to shed \_\_\_\_\_ the cru - el  
 to each un - known, with off - 'rings great, \_\_\_\_\_ by guid - ing  
 from fu - ry shalt Pro - phets step a - side, \_\_\_\_\_ help have we  
 as all the Pro - phets pro - phe - sy, \_\_\_\_\_ whose mo - ther

A. in - no - cent to shed, the cru - el king  
 known, with off - 'rings great, the cru - el king  
 shalt thou step a - side, great, by guid - ing of  
 Pro - phets pro - phe - sy, whose have we still  
 whose mo - ther yet

A. shed the cru - el king hath  
 great, by guid - ing of a  
 - side, help have we still in  
 - sy, whose mo - ther yet a

T. - cent the cru - el king hath sworn, hath \_\_\_\_\_  
 - known, by guid - ing of a Star, a \_\_\_\_\_  
 step, help have we still in store, in \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_ whose mo - ther yet a maid, a \_\_\_\_\_

B. to \_\_\_\_\_ shed, to shed

43

S. king hath sworn, the cru - el king hath \_\_\_\_\_ sworn: And  
of a Star, by guid - ing of a \_\_\_\_\_ Star: And  
still in store, help have we still in \_\_\_\_\_ store: We  
yet a maid, whose mo - ther yet a \_\_\_\_\_ maid, And

A. hath \_\_\_\_\_ sworn: And  
a \_\_\_\_\_ Star: And  
in \_\_\_\_\_ store: We  
a \_\_\_\_\_ maid, And

A. sworn, the cru - el king hath \_\_\_\_\_ sworn: And  
Star, by guid - ing of a \_\_\_\_\_ Star: And  
store help have we still in \_\_\_\_\_ store: We  
maid, whose mo - ther yet a \_\_\_\_\_ maid, And

T. sworn, the cru - el king hath sworn: And lo, \_\_\_\_\_  
Star, by guid - ing of a Star: And shep -  
store, help have we still in store: We heaven -  
maid, whose mo - ther yet a maid, And per -

B. the cru - el king hath sworn, hath \_\_\_\_\_ sworn: And  
by guid - ing of a Star, a \_\_\_\_\_ Star: And  
help have we still in store, in \_\_\_\_\_ store: We  
whose mo - ther yet a maid, a \_\_\_\_\_ maid, And

47

S. lo, a - las, be - hold, what slaugh - ter  
shep - herds heard the \_\_\_\_\_ song, which an - gels  
heaven - ly warn - ing \_\_\_\_\_ have, some o - ther  
per - fect vir - gin \_\_\_\_\_ pure, with her breasts

A. lo, a - las, be - hold, what  
shep - herds heard the \_\_\_\_\_ song, which  
heaven - ly warn - ing \_\_\_\_\_ have, some  
per - fect vir - gin \_\_\_\_\_ pure, with

A. lo, a - las, be - hold, be - hold,  
shep - herds heard the \_\_\_\_\_ song, the \_\_\_\_\_ song,  
heaven - ly warn - ing \_\_\_\_\_ have, warn - ing \_\_\_\_\_ have,  
per - fect vir - gin \_\_\_\_\_ pure, vir - gin \_\_\_\_\_ pure,

T. \_\_\_\_\_ a - las, be - hold, what slaugh - ter he \_\_\_\_\_ doth  
- herds heard the \_\_\_\_\_ song, which an - gels bright \_\_\_\_\_ did  
- ly warn - ing \_\_\_\_\_ have, some ther soil \_\_\_\_\_ to  
- fect vir - gin pure, with her breasts shall \_\_\_\_\_ up -

B. lo, a - las, be - hold, what slaugh -

51

S. he doth make, shed - ding the blood of  
 bright did sing, giv - ing all glo - ry  
 soil to seek, from death must fly the  
 shall up - breed both God and man, that

A. slaugh - ter he doth make,  
 an - gels bright did sing,  
 o - ther soil to seek,  
 her breasts shall up - breed

A. what slaugh - ter he doth make, shed - ding the blood of  
 which an - gels bright did sing, giv - ing all glo - ry  
 some o - ther soil to seek, from death must fly the  
 with her breasts shall up - breed both God and man, that

T. make, he doth make, he doth make,  
 sing, bright did sing, bright did sing,  
 seek, soil to seek, soil to seek,  
 - breed, shall up - breed, shall up - breed  
 shed - ding the  
 giv - ing all  
 from death must  
 both God and

B. - ter he doth make, what slaugh - ter he doth  
 - gels bright did sing, which an - gels bright did  
 - ther soil to seek, some o - ther soil to  
 breasts shall up - breed, with her breasts shall up -

55

S. in - fants all, of in - fants  
 un - to God, un - to  
 Lord of life, the Lord of  
 all hath made, that all hath

A. shed - ding the blood of in - fants all, sweet  
 giv - ing all glo - ry the Lord of life, for  
 from death must fly the Lord of life, as  
 both God and man, that all hath made, the

A. in - fants all, sweet sa - vi - our  
 un - to God, for com - ing  
 Lord of life, as Lamb both,  
 all hath made, the Son of

T. blood of, of in - fants all, sweet sa - vi -  
 glo - ry the Lord of life, for com -  
 fly the Lord of life, as Lamb both  
 man that, that all hath made, the Son of

B. make, shed - ding the blood of in - fants

59

S. all, sweet sa - vi - our, for thy sake, for thy sake.  
 God, for com - ing of this King, of this King,  
 life, as Lamb both mild and meek, mild and meek.  
 made, the Son of heav - en - ly seed, heaven - ly seed,

A. sa - vi - our, for thy sake.  
 com - ing of this King,  
 Lamb both mild and meek.  
 Son of heaven - ly seed,

A. for thy sake, for thy sake.  
 of this King, of this King,  
 mild and meek, mild and meek.  
 heaven - ly seed, heaven - ly seed,

T. - our, for thy sake, for thy sake.  
 - ing of this King, of this King,  
 mild and meek, mild and meek.  
 heaven - ly seed, heaven - ly seed,

B. all, sweet sa - vi - our, for thy sake, for thy sake.  
 God, for com - ing of this King, of this King,  
 life, as Lamb both mild and meek, mild and meek.  
 made, the Son of heav - en - ly seed, heaven - ly seed,

63

S. A king, a king is born, they say,  
 Which must, which must be made a way,  
 Thus must, thus must my Babe o - bey  
 Whom cai - tiffs, cai - tiffs none can tray,

A. A king is born, they say, which king this  
 Which must be made a way, king He - rod  
 Thus must my Babe o - bey the king that  
 Whom cai - tiffs none can tray, whom ty - rants

A. A king is born, they say, which king this  
 Which must be made a way, king He - rod  
 Thus must my Babe o - bey the king that  
 Whom cai - tiffs none can tray, whom ty - rants

T. A king is born, they say, which king this king  
 Which must be made a way, king He - rod would  
 Thus must my Babe o - bey the king that would  
 Whom cai - tiffs none can tray, whom ty - rants none

B. A king is born, they say, which king this



67

S. which king this king would kill,  
king He - rod king would him kill,  
the king - that would him kill,  
whom ty - rants none him can kill,

A. king this king would kill,  
He - rod would him kill,  
king that would him kill,  
ty - rants none can kill,

A. king would kill, (1, 2, 3) Oh  
would him kill,  
would him kill,  
none can kill, (4) Oh

T. - would kill, would kill,  
- him kill, him kill,  
- him kill, him kill,  
- can kill, can kill,

B. king would kill, would kill,  
would him kill, him kill,  
would him kill, him kill,  
none can kill, can kill,

70

S. (1, 2, 3) Oh woe, woe, Oh woe,  
(4) Oh joy, joy, Oh joy,

A. (1, 2, 3) Oh woe, Oh  
(4) Oh joy, Oh

A. woe, and woe - ful hea - vy day, Oh woe, and  
joy, and joy - ful hap - py day, Oh joy, and

T. (1, 2, 3) Oh woe, woe, Oh woe, woe, Oh woe,  
(4) Oh joy, joy, Oh joy, joy, Oh joy,

B. (1, 2, 3) Oh woe, Oh woe, woe,  
(4) Oh joy, Oh joy, joy,

74

S. and woe - ful, and woe - ful hea - vy day, hea -  
and joy - ful, and joy - ful hap - py day, hap -

A. woe, and woe - ful hea - vy day,  
joy, and joy - ful hap - py day,

A. — woe - ful hea - vy day, when wret -  
— joy - ful hap - py day, when wret -

T. — and woe - ful hea - vy day, when wret -  
— and joy - ful hap - py day, when wret -

B. Oh woe, and woe - ful hea - vy day, hea -  
Oh joy, and joy - ful hap - py day, hap -

78

S. -vy day, when wret - ches have  
-py day, when wret - ches want

A. when wret - ches have their will, when wret -  
when wret - ches want their will, when wret -

A. - ches have their will, have their will, have their will,  
ches want their will, want their will, want their will,

T. - ches have their will, have their will, when wret - ches have  
- ches want their will, want their will, when wret - ches want

B. - vy day, when wret - ches have their will, have their will,  
- py day, when wret - ches want their will, want their will,

82

S. 

their will, when wret - ches have their will. will.  
 their will, when wret - ches want their will. will.

A. 

- ches have their will, have their will. will.  
 - ches want their will, want their will. will.

A. 

when wret - ches have their will. Oh will.  
 when wret - ches want their will. Oh will.

T. 

their will, when wret - ches have their will. will.  
 their will, when wret - ches want their will. will.

B. 

their will, when wret - ches have their will. will.  
 their will, when wret - ches want their will. will.

Lulla la lulla lulla lullaby,  
 My sweet little Babie, what meanest thou to cry.

2. Three kings this King of kings to see, are come from farre,  
 To each unknowen, with offerings great, by guiding of a Starre:  
 And shepherds heard the song, which Angells bright did sing,  
 Giving all glory unto God, for comming of this King,  
 Which must bee made away, king *Herod* would him kill.  
 Oh woe and woefull heavie day, when wretches have their will.  
 Lulla, la lulla, lulla lullaby, my sweet, &c.
3. Loe, my little Babe, bee still, lament no more,  
 From furie shalt thou step aside, help have we still in store:  
 Wee heavenly warning have, some other soyle to seeke,  
 From death must flie the Lord of life, as Lamb both myld & meeke:  
 Thus must my Babe obey the king that would him kill.  
 Oh woe, and woefull heavie day, when wretches have their will.  
 Lulla, la lulla, lulla lullaby, my sweet &c.
4. But thou shalt live and raigne, as *Sibilles* have foresayd,  
 As all the Prophets prophesie, whose mother yet a maide,  
 And perfect Virgin pure, with her brestes shall upbreede,  
 Both God and man that all hath made, the Sonne of heavenly seede:  
 Whome caytives none can traye, whome tyrants none can kill,  
 Oh joy, and joyfull happie day, when wretches want their will.

FINIS

### Editorial notes

Bracketed accidentals, and all directions in square brackets, are editorial.

Italicised underlay is represented by the 'ij' repeat sign in the original print.

Spelling of underlaid text has been modernised, and punctuation and capitalisation regularised between the parts.

A proportional relationship between the time-signatures in the two sections has been assumed, although there is no way of telling whether Byrd intended this.

The repeated music from bar 70 is printed *in extenso* in the original publication, but there are no significant differences beyond, unsurprisingly, those of spelling and punctuation in the repeated section.

The underlay of verses 2, 3 and 4 is editorial, the first verse only being underlaid in the original publication.