

Timothy Kramer

Cradle Song

(Dormi Jesu / A Child's Blessing)

2019

Latin Text

Dormi, Jesu! Mater ridet
Quae tam dulcem somnum videt,
Dormi, Jesu! blandule!
Si non dormis, Mater plorat,
Inter fila cantans orat,
Blande, veni, somnule.

Sleep, Jesus! Mother smiles
Who sees such sweet sleep,
Sleep, Jesus, gentling!
If you sleep not, Mother weeps,
While she spins, in song she prays,
Come, gentle little sleep.

Or this translation/ paraphrase by Samuel Taylor Coleridge

Sleep, sweet babe! my cares beguiling:
Mother sits beside thee smiling;
Sleep, my darling, tenderly!
If thou sleep not, mother mourneth,
Singing as her wheel she turneth:
Come, soft slumber, balmily!

Hebrew Text (transliteration) : Genesis 48:20 and Numbers 24-26 – Blessing of Children (for a boy).

Y'simcha Elohim
k'Ephraim v'chi Menashe

Yeverechecha adonai ve'yishmereicha.
Ya'er adonai panav eileicha vichuneika.
Yisa adonai panav eileicha ve'yasem lecha shalom.

God make thee as Ephraim and as Manasseh.

The Lord bless thee, and keep thee;
The Lord make His face to shine upon thee, and be gracious unto thee;
The Lord lift up His countenance upon thee, and give thee peace.

DURATION: 4 min. 10 seconds.

PROGRAM NOTES:

Cradle Song (*Dormi Jesu / A Child's Blessing*) was commissioned by the San Francisco Choral Artists for a Christmas program in December 2019. Here two old texts come together: one from the Christian tradition and one from the Jewish tradition. The first, *Dormi Jesu*, is an anonymous Latin text that presents the scene of mother and child. The second text, sung in Hebrew, is a blessing said - now sung - over a (male) child. The texts are set to soft floating thirds (like a lullaby) and music that rocks back and forth. (You may notice fragments of the hymn "Away in a Manager"). Some chromatic notes also suggest something more mysterious and haunting while the baby Jesus slumbers.

Cradle Song

(Dormi Jesu / A Child's Blessing)

Latin, author unknown
Hebrew, Blessing for Children
Genesis 48:20 and Numbers 6:24-26

Written for San Francisco Choral Artists
Magen Solomon, Artistic Director

Timothy Kramer

Softly; Gently ♩ = 78

The musical score is written for four voices: Soprano, Alto, Tenor, and Bass. It is in 3/4 time and begins with a tempo marking of 'Softly; Gently' and a metronome marking of ♩ = 78. The score is divided into three systems. The first system (measures 1-8) features the Tenor and Bass parts with lyrics 'Dor - mi, Je - su' and dynamic markings *pp*, *p*, and *mp*. The second system (measures 9-12) features all four voices with lyrics 'Dor - mi, Je - su' and dynamic markings *pp*, *mp*, and *p*. The third system (measures 13-17) features all four voices with lyrics 'Dor mi, Je - su Dor - mi, Je - su Dor - mi, Je - su' and dynamic markings *pp*, *mp*, and *p*. A large 'Perusal Copy Only' watermark is overlaid on the score.

Cradle Song

21

Flowing ♩ = 90

molto rit.

19

S Dor - mi, Je - su! Mat - er

A *pp* Dor - mi, Je - su Dor - mi, Je - su! Mat - er

T 8 Dor - mi, Je - su Dor - mi, Je - su! Mat - er

B *pp* Dor - mi, Je - su Dor - mi, Je - su! Mat - er

p *mp*

29

ritard

a tempo

24

S *mf* ri - det Quae tam dul - cem som - num vi - det, Dor - mi,

A *mf* ri - det Quae tam dul - cem som - num vi - det, Dor - mi,

T *mf* ri - det Quae tam dul - cem som - num vi - det, Dor -

B *mf* ri - det Quae tam dul - cem som - num vi - det, Dor -

f *mf* *mp* *p*

38

30

S *mf* Je - su! Dor - mi, Je - su! blan - du - le! Dor -

A *mf* Je - su! Dor - mi, Je - su! blan - du - le! blan - du - le! Dor -

T *mf* mi, Je - su! blan - du - le! blan - du - le! Dor - mi

B *mf* mi, Je - su! blan - du - le! Dor - mi

f *mf* *p*

Cradle Song

39 46

dim. *pp*

S mi Je - su o(oh) i(ee) e(eh) - u(oo) o

A mi Je - su o(oh) i(ee) e(eh) u(oo) o

T Je - su, Dor-mi Je - su, o(oh)-i(ee) e(eh) u(oo) o i e u o i

B Je - su, Dor-mi Je - su o(oh)-i(ee) e(eh)-u(oo) o i e u o i

Solo *mf tenderly*

** sing only the Latin vowels from this point; no consonants. vowels may be flattened for a smoother sound.*

Y' sim-cha El-o - him k' E-

47

S i e u o i e u

A i e u o i e u

T e u o i e u o i e u o i e u

B e u o i e u o i e u o i e u

Solo *mf tenderly*

phraim v' chi Me-na - she. Ye-ve - re-che-cha A-do - nai ve'-yish-me - rei-cha. Ya'

54

S o i e u o i e

A o i e u o i e

T o i e u o i e u o i e u o i

B o i e u o i e u o i e u o i

Solo *mf tenderly*

er A-do - nai pa-nav ei - lei-cha vi-chu - nei-ka. Yi - sa A-do - nai pa-nav ei - lei-cha

Cradle Song

61 62

S u o i e u o i e

A u o i e u o i e

T e u o i e u o i e u o i

B e u o i e u o i e u o i

Solo

ve'-ya - sem l' - cha sha - lom, ve'-ya - sem l' - cha sha - lom,

69 70 *accel.* 74 **Faster** ♩ = 100

S u o i e u Si non dor-mis, Ma - ter plo - rat, -

A u o i e u Si non dor-mis, Ma - ter plo - rat, -

T e u o i e u Si non dor - mis,

B e u o i e u Si non dor - mis,

Solo

ve'-ya - sem l' - cha sha - lom.

78 *mf* *mp* 84

S In - ter fi - la can - tans o - rat, Blan - de, ve - ni, Blan - de, ve - ni,

A In - ter fi - la can - tans o - rat, Blan - de, ve - ni, Blan - de, ve - ni,

T In - ter fi - la can - tans o - rat Blan - de, ve - ni, Blan - de, ve - ni,

B In - ter fi - la can - tans o - rat Blan - de, ve - ni, Blan - de, ve - ni,

Cradle Song

ritard

88 **f** **mf** **92**

S: *f* *mf* *ritard*
 Blan - de, ve - ni, Blan - de, ve - ni, som - nu - le, som - nu - le.

A: *f* *mf*
 Blan - de, ve - ni, Blan - de, ve - ni, som - nu - le.

T: *f* *mf*
 8 Blan - de, ve - ni, Blan - de, ve - ni, som - nu - le.

B: *f* *mf*
 Blan - de, ve - ni, Blan - de, ve - ni, som - nu - le.

100

Slower; Calmer ♩ = 84

ritard

99 *p* *ritard*

S: *p* *ritard*
 — Dor - mi, Je - su, som - nu - le, som - nu -

A: *p*
 — Dor mi, Je - su, som - nu - le, nu - le.

T: *p*
 8 — Dor-mi, Je - su, Dor-mi, Je - su, som - nu - le.

B: *p*
 — Dor-mi, Je - su, Dor-mi, Je - su, som - nu - le.

113

109 Softly swinging ♩ = 76

ritard ----- **Quiet; Still** ♩ = 68

S: *pp*
 le som - nu - le.

A: *pp*
 som - nu - le.

T: *pp*
 8 Hmm Hmm som - nu - le.

B: *pp*
 Hmm Hmm Hmm, som - nu - le.