

Lullabie

William Byrd (c.1540-1623)

Dow Partbooks (Christ Church, 1580s, Oxford MSS 984-988)

Superius

Medius

Contra

Tenor

Bassus

Lul - la

5

lul - la - by, Lul - la lul - la - by my sweet lit-tle

10

ba - by, my sweet lit-tle ba - by, what mean - est thou to cry,

Lullabie (score)

2
15

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

20

La lul - la la lul-la-by, La lul-la-by, Lul - la - by, my sweet lit-tle

25

ba - by lul-lu - by. Be still my bles - sed babe,

30

though cause thou hast to mourn, Whose blood most in - no-cent to shed

This system contains measures 30 through 34. It features a vocal line with lyrics and four piano accompaniment staves. The music is in a minor key with a 3/4 time signature. The vocal line begins with a rest in measure 30, followed by the lyrics in measures 31 and 32. The piano accompaniment consists of a treble and bass line with various rhythmic patterns.

35

the cru - el king has sworn, And lo a - las, be -

This system contains measures 35 through 39. The vocal line continues with the lyrics in measures 35 and 36. The piano accompaniment continues with similar rhythmic patterns. The system ends with a fermata over the final note of the vocal line in measure 39.

40

hold what slaugh-ter he doth make, Shed-ding the blood of

This system contains measures 40 through 44. The vocal line continues with the lyrics in measures 40 and 41. The piano accompaniment continues with similar rhythmic patterns. The system ends with a fermata over the final note of the vocal line in measure 44.

in - fants all, sweet sav - i-our for thy sake. A king is born they

say no king this king would kill. O woe

O woe and woe - ful hea - vy day when wret - ches have their will,

55

1. 2.

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

The musical score consists of five staves. The top staff is the vocal line, starting with a treble clef and a key signature of two flats (B-flat and E-flat). It contains the lyrics: "when wret - ches have their will, have their will. will." The score includes a first ending (marked "1.") and a second ending (marked "2."). The bottom four staves are instrumental accompaniment, with the bottom-most staff using a bass clef. The score is marked with a rehearsal sign and the number "55" above the first measure of the vocal line.