

# The Fly

from "Songs of Experience" (1789)

**Largo**

*p*

3

The piano introduction consists of six measures in 3/4 time. The right hand begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (B-flat). It features a series of chords and eighth-note patterns, including a triplet of eighth notes in the first measure. The left hand, in bass clef, provides a harmonic accompaniment with chords and moving lines.

7

Lit-tle Fly, thy sum-mer's play my thought-less hand has brush'd a-way.---

This system contains the first line of the song. The vocal line starts at measure 7 with a rest, then begins with the lyrics. The piano accompaniment continues with a melodic line in the right hand and a bass line in the left hand. A triplet of eighth notes is marked in measure 10.

12

Am not I a fly like thee? Or art not thou a man like me?---

This system contains the second line of the song. The vocal line continues with the lyrics. The piano accompaniment features a more active right hand with sixteenth-note patterns and a steady bass line.

17

For I dance, and drink, & sing, till some blind hand shall brush my

This system contains the third line of the song. The vocal line continues with the lyrics. The piano accompaniment is highly rhythmic, with the right hand playing a complex sixteenth-note pattern and the left hand providing a steady accompaniment.

The Fly

21

wing? \_\_\_\_\_ If thought is life, and strength & breadth, \_\_\_\_\_ and the want of thought is

**poco più mosso**

25

death; \_\_\_\_\_ then am I \_\_\_\_\_ a hap-py fly, \_\_\_\_\_ if I live, \_\_\_\_\_

**accel.**

**Andante**

31

\_\_\_\_\_ or if \_\_\_\_\_ I \_\_\_\_\_ die. \_\_\_\_\_

**molto rit.**

36

**pp**