



Malcolm Hill

(1944 -)

O Gentle Sleep

Text from
Shakespeare's
Macbeth and
Henry IV part 2

for 3 Soprano Soloists
and
6-part Female Chorus

mj352

composed 2016

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O Gentle Sleep

for 3 soprano soloists and double SSA chorus

William Shakespeare:
Henry IV Pt 2 Act 3 Scene 1
MacBeth Act 2 Scene 2

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Slow

♩=70

The musical score is written for Soprano Solo 1, Soprano Solo 2, Mezzo Solo, and a double SSA chorus (S1, Mez1, A1, S2, Mez2, A2). The key signature is three sharps (F#, C#, G#) and the time signature is 4/4. The tempo is marked 'Slow' with a quarter note equal to 70 beats per minute. The Soprano Solo 1 part begins with a rest for five measures, followed by a half note 'O' and a half note 'sleep,' with a fermata over the 'sleep,'. The other parts (Soprano Solo 2, Mezzo Solo, and the chorus) enter at the start of the sixth measure. The chorus parts (S1, Mez1, A1, S2, Mez2, A2) are marked 'sempre ppp e legato' and begin with a slurred half note 'sl' followed by a half note 'sleep' with a fermata. The lyrics 'O sleep,' are written under the Soprano Solo 1 part, and 'sl sleep' are written under the chorus parts.

Chorus keeps "s" to a minimum; first phrase prolongs a quiet L (no vowel); thereafter, each phrase starts with "slee" and singers add final "p" before staggered breathing, starting after breath with a new "lee.." (i.e. no extra "s"). **ppp** throughout and always legato.

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8

SSol 1

O gen - tle sleep!

SSol 2

MezSol

p

the

S.1

sleep

M.1

sleep

A.1

sleep

S.2

sleep

M.2

sleep

A.2

sleep

14

SSol 1

SSol 2

MezSol

in-no-cent sleep, Sleep that knits up the rav-ell'd sleeve of care,

p
The

S.1

M.1

A.1

S.2

M.2

A.2

Detailed description: This is a musical score for a vocal ensemble, spanning measures 14 to 18. The key signature has three sharps (F#, C#, G#). The parts are arranged vertically: SSol 1, SSol 2, MezSol, S.1, M.1, A.1, S.2, M.2, and A.2. Measures 14 and 15 feature vocal entries with triplets. Measures 16, 17, and 18 show sustained notes, with lyrics 'in-no-cent sleep, Sleep that knits up the rav-ell'd sleeve of care,' under the MezSol part. SSol 2 has a piano (*p*) dynamic marking at the end of measure 18, followed by the word 'The'.

19

SSol 1

SSol 2

MezSol

S.1

M.1

A.1

S.2

M.2

A.2

death of each day's life,

sore la - - - bour's

mp

3

24

mp

SSol 1 Balm_____ of hurt minds,___ great_ na - ture's

SSol 2

MezSol bath,_____

S.1 sleep_____

M.1 sleep_____

A.1 sleep_____

S.2 sleep_____

M.2 sleep_____

A.2 sleep_____

30

SSol 1

se - cond course, Chief nou-rish-er in life's _____ feast;

SSol 2

mp Chief nou - ri -

MezSol

mp Chief nou - ri - sher _____ in life's

S.1

M.1

A.1

S.2

M.2

A.2

35

SSol 1 *p*
O sleep, Na- ture's soft nurse, how

SSol 2
sher in life's feast;

MezSol
feast;

S.1
sleep

M.1
sleep

A.1
sleep

S.2
sleep

M.2
sleep

A.2
sleep

41

SSol 1

have I fright-ed thee,

SSol 2

mp

That thou no more wilt weigh my eye - lids

MezSol

S.1

M.1

A.1

S.2

M.2

A.2

46

SSol 1

SSol 2

MezSol

S.1

M.1

A.1

S.2

M.2

A.2

down

p

And steep my sen ses in for - get - ful - ness?

sleep_

sleep_

sleep_

sleep_

sleep_

sleep_

sleep_

52 *mp*

SSol 1 Why sleep, li-est thou in smo - ky cribs,

SSol 2 Why_ ra-ther, sleep, li-est thou in smo - ky cribs,

MezSol Why sleep, li-est thou in smo - ky cribs,

S.1

M.1

A.1

S.2

M.2

A.2

57

p

SSol 1

sleep

mp

SSol 2

U-pon un - ea - sy pal lets stretch-ing thee, — And hush'd with buzz - ing

p

MezSol

sleep

mp

And

pp

S.1

sleep

pp

M.1

sleep

pp

A.1

sleep

pp

S.2

sleep

pp

M.2

sleep

pp

A.2

sleep

62

SSol 1 *mp dim.* *mp*
to thy slum - ber, Than in the

SSol 2 *mp dim.*
night - flies to thy slum - ber,

MezSol *mp dim.*
hush'd with buzz - ing night - flies to thy slum - ber

S.1 3 3 3 3 3 3

M.1 3 3 3 3 3 3

A.1 3 3 3 3 3 3

S.2

M.2

A.2

66

SSol 1

per-fum'd cham- bers____ of the great, Un - der the ca - no- pies____

SSol 2

mp

Un - der the ca - no- pies____

MezSol

mp

sleep,____

S.1

M.1

A.1

S.2

M.2

A.2

70

SSol 1 *cresc.*
— of cost - ly state, — And lull'd, lull'd — with —

SSol 2 *cresc.*
— of cost - ly state, — And lull'd, lull'd — with —

MezSol *cresc.*
— of cost - ly state, — And lull'd, lull'd — with —

S.1
sleep —

M.1
sleep —

A.1
sleep —

S.2
sleep —

M.2
sleep —

A.2
sleep —

74

SSol 1 *dim.*
sound of sweet - est

SSol 2 *dim.* *p*
sound of sweet, sweet - est me - lo -

MezSol *dim.* *p*
sound of sweet me - lo - dy.

S.1

M.1

A.1

S.2

M.2

A.2

79 *p*

SSol 1 sweet - est me - lo - dy?

SSol 2 dy.

MezSol

S.1 sleep

M.1 sleep

A.1 sleep

S.2 sleep

M.2 sleep

A.2 sleep