



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

www.malcolm-hill.co.uk

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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

$\text{♩} = 70$

Soprano Solo 1

Soprano Solo 2

Mezzo Solo

S1

Mez1

A1

S2

Mez2

A2

sleep,

sl

semper **ppp** e legato

sleep

sleep

sleep

sleep

sleep

sleep

sleep

sleep

sleep

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.

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 *p*
The

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

S.1

M.1

A.1

S.2

M.2

A.2

19

SSol 1

SSol 2 death of each day's life,

MezSol *mp* sore la - - - bour's

S.1

M.1

A.1

S.2

M.2

A.2

death of each day's life,

sore la - - - bour's

24

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

The musical score consists of eight staves, each representing a different voice or instrument. The key signature is G major, indicated by a single sharp symbol. The time signature is common time. The vocal parts are: SSol 1, SSol 2, MezSol, S.1, M.1, A.1, S.2, M.2, and A.2. The score is divided into measures, with measure 24 being the current one. In measure 24, SSol 1 has a melodic line with eighth-note patterns and grace notes, followed by sustained notes. SSol 2, MezSol, and S.1 provide harmonic support with sustained notes. M.1, A.1, S.2, M.2, and A.2 enter with sustained notes labeled "sleep". The vocal parts are: SSol 1, SSol 2, MezSol, S.1, M.1, A.1, S.2, M.2, and A.2.

30

SSol 1

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

SSol 2

Chief nou - ri -

MezSol

Chief nou - ri - sher in life's

S.1

M.1

A.1

S.2

M.2

A.2

35

SSol 1

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

MezSol

S.1

M.1

A.1

S.2

M.2

A.2

mp

That thou no more wilt weigh my eye - lids

The musical score consists of eight staves, each with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp. The first staff (SSol 1) starts with a melodic line and lyrics. The second staff (SSol 2) begins with a rest and includes dynamics and a measure number '3'. The third staff (MezSol) is mostly blank. The fourth staff (S.1) features a continuous eighth-note pattern. The fifth staff (M.1) shows a rhythmic pattern of eighth and sixteenth notes. The sixth staff (A.1) has a similar eighth-note pattern. The seventh staff (S.2) also features an eighth-note pattern. The eighth staff (M.2) shows a rhythmic pattern of eighth and sixteenth notes. The ninth staff (A.2) has a similar eighth-note pattern. Measure 41 concludes with a rest followed by a melodic line for SSol 2.

46

SSol 1

SSol 2

MezSol

S.1

M.1

A.1

S.2

M.2

A.2

52

SSol 1 *mp*

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

SSol 2 *mp*

Why- ra-ther, sleep, li-est thou in smo - ky cribs,

MezSol *mp*

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

S.1

M.1

A.1

S.2

M.2

A.2

57

SSol 1 *p*
sleep

SSol 2 *mp*
U-pon un - ea - sy pal lets stretch-ing thee, And hush'd with buzz - ing

MezSol *p* *mp*
sleep And

S.1 *pp* sleep

M.1 *pp* sleep

A.1 *pp* sleep

S.2 *pp* sleep

M.2 *pp* sleep

A.2 *pp* sleep

62

SSol 1

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

SSol 2

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

MezSol

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

S.1

M.1

A.1

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

This musical score page contains two main sections of music. The upper section, starting at measure 66, features three vocal parts: SSol 1, SSol 2, and MezSol. SSol 1 has lyrics: "per-fum'd cham- bers____ of the great, Un - der the ca - no- pies____". SSol 2 and MezSol enter later with the lyrics "Un - der the ca - no- pies____" and "sleep,____" respectively, both marked with a dynamic of *mp*. The lower section consists of six vocal parts labeled S.1 through A.2. Each part begins with a note and a short melodic line, followed by a long horizontal line indicating sustained sound. The parts are stacked vertically from highest to lowest: S.1, M.1, A.1, S.2, M.2, and A.2.

70

SSol 1

— of cost - ly state, _____ And lull'd, lull'd____ with____

SSol 2

— of cost - ly state, _____ And lull'd, lull'd____ with____

MezSol

— 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

sound of sweet - est

SSol 2

sound of sweet,
sweet - est
me - lo -

MezSol

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

This musical score page contains eight staves, each with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat. The music begins with a forte dynamic (p) at measure 79. The first staff, labeled 'SSol 1', sings the lyrics 'sweet - est me - lo - dy?' with a melodic line consisting of eighth and sixteenth notes. The second staff, 'SSol 2', has a single eighth note followed by seven rests. The third staff, 'MezSol', has a single eighth note followed by seven rests. The fourth staff, 'S.1', begins with a rest, followed by four eighth notes, then a melodic line starting with a dotted half note, a quarter note, another dotted half note, and a final quarter note. The word 'sleep' is written below this line. The fifth staff, 'M.1', follows a similar pattern with a melodic line starting on a dotted half note. The sixth staff, 'A.1', also features a melodic line starting on a dotted half note. The seventh staff, 'S.2', has a melodic line starting on a quarter note. The eighth staff, 'M.2', has a melodic line starting on a dotted half note. The ninth staff, 'A.2', has a melodic line starting on a quarter note. All melodic lines end with a sustained note on the final beat of each measure.