

The Gartan Mother's Lullaby

Traditional Irish
arranged by Neil Ginsberg

Very freely, gently

Flute or Vln. (opt.)

mp *mf* *pp rall.* *mp*

* Begin piece at measure 6 if no flute or violin.

6 *♩ = 50 legato, gentle*

mf *legato, gentle* *mf play RH if no flute*

10 *legato, gentle* *mp*

S Sleep, my child, for the red bee hums The si - lent twi-light_

A *legato, gentle* *mp*

Sleep, my child, for the red bee hums The si - lent twi-light_

mp both hands *mf* *mp*

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falls. The Ban - shee from the grey rock comes, To wrap the world in

falls. The Ban - shee from the grey rock comes, To wrap the world in

mf *mp*

For Perusal Only

17

thrall. A ly-an - van, O my child, my joy, My

thrall. A ly-an - van, O my child, my joy, My

mf *f*

20

love, _____ my heart's de - sire, The crick-et_ sings you a

love, _____ my heart's de - sire, The crick-et_ sings you a

mf *pp*

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23

lul - la - by Be - side _____ the dy - in'__ fire.

lul - la - by Be - side _____ the dy - in'__ fire.

mf play RH if no flute

27

legato, gentle
mf

Dusk is drawn, and the Green Man's thorn Is wreathed in rings of fog.

mp

31

mp

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mp

Oo_

mp

Oo_

mf legato, gentle

Shee - vra sails _____ his boat 'til morn Up - on _____ the star - ry

mf legato, gentle

Shee - vra sails his boat 'til morn Up - on _____ the star - ry

mp

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f bog. A ly-an - van, O the pale half-moon, Hath

mp bog. Oo

slower

mp slower Oo and weeps to hear this sad, sleep tune, I

mp slower and weeps to hear this sad, sleep tune, I

mp slower brimmed her cusp in dew, and weeps to hear this sad, sleep tune, I

mp slower and weeps to hear this sad, sleep tune, I

The musical score is written for a piano and voice. It features a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a 2/4 time signature. The piano accompaniment consists of a right-hand melody and a left-hand bass line. The voice part is a single line with lyrics. The score includes dynamic markings such as *mp* (mezzo-piano), *pp* (pianissimo), and *ppp* (pianississimo). Performance instructions include *very freely, gently*, *more motion*, and *rall.* (rallentando). The lyrics are: "you to you Sleep my child, for the ree-bee hums The silent twilight falls. The Banshee from the grey rock comes, To wrap the world in thrall. A lyanvan, O my child, my joy, My love, my heart's desire, The cricket sings you a lullaby, Beside the dyin' fire. Dusk is drawn and the Green Man's thorn Is wreathed in rings of fog. Sheevra sails his boat 'til morn Upon the starry bog. A lyanvan, O the pale half-moon, Hath brimmed her cusp in dew, And weeps to hear this sad, sleep tune, I sing, my love, to you."

About the song:

The gift of Irish imagery is fully evident in the songs they sing to their babies. Often the music has a haunting quality such as we find in *The Gartan Mother's Lullaby*. We are grateful to Irish singer Alice Flynn who shared her research of this song with us, and aided us in creating our version of the lyrics. You can learn more about this song at her website: <http://www.mcn.net/~acflynna/gartan.html>

Gartan - an area and a lake in County Donegal

Banshee - a ghost-like fairy woman who haunted the rock of Graglea above Killaloe, near the old palace of Kincora; in Gaelic tradition she bears the name *Aoibheal* (pronounced EE-vahl); this has sometimes been confused with the word *evil*; we chose to use the word Banshee rather than a sound-alike word for *Aoibheal*

thrall - English word for a person held in bondage

lyanvan - an attempt (which has become traditional for this song) to duplicate the sound of the Irish word spelled *lean-bhan* which means *a child*; pronounce *lyanvan* LEEAHN-uh-vahn, the *uh* is very, very short like a grace note

Green Man - a medieval face with leaves growing out of it; often seen carved into old European buildings, it represents the death and rebirth of life in nature that occurs annually in the cycle of the seasons

Sheevra (Irish spelling *siabhra*) - a particularly mischievous type of little fairy people