

Notes from the arranger:

I came upon this sly parody of *Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star* and thought it would be perfect to create a fun, singable version of the poem. Most of the piano accompaniment is taken straight from Mozart's *Ah! vous dirai-je, Maman* piano variations. After singing the clever astronomy verses, the choir then sings the first verse of *Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star* that we are all familiar with – as if the choir and audience can now relax and return to terra firma.

The Star, now commonly known as *Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star*, was written by Jane Taylor (1783–1824) and first published in 1806 in *Rhymes for the Nursery*, a collection of poems and melodies by Taylor and her sister, Ann. Taylor coupled her poem with the 18th-century French melody *Ah! vous dirai-je, Maman*, a song about love, not a little star. Mozart's *Variations on "Ah! vous dirai-je, Maman"* were originally thought to have been composed in 1778 while Mozart stayed in Paris half of that year. They are now believed to have been composed in 1781 or 1782, reflected in the Köchel catalog listings as K. 265.

The poem *Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star* has been parodied often, most notably by Lewis Carroll in *Alice in Wonderland* ("Twinkle, twinkle little bat, how I wonder what you're at ..."). It has five verses. The repetition of the first two lines of each verse is not in the original, but is needed to fit the original melody.

–Paul Carey

The Star
(Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star)

Twinkle, twinkle, little star,
How I wonder what you are!
Up above the world so high,
Like a diamond in the sky!

When the blazing sun is gone,
When he nothing shines upon,
Then you show your little light,
Twinkle, twinkle, all the night.

Then the traveller in the dark,
Thanks you for your tiny spark,
He could not see which way to go,
If you did not twinkle so.

In the dark blue sky you keep,
And often through my curtains peep,
For you never shut your eye,
Till the sun is in the sky.

As your bright and tiny spark,
Lights the traveller in the dark,—
Though I know not what you are,
Twinkle, twinkle, little star.

The Little Star

Scintillate, scintillate, globule orific,
Fain would I fathom thy nature's specific.
Loftily poised in ether capacious,
Strongly resembling a gem carbonaceous.

When torrid Phoebus refuses his presence,
And ceases to lamp with fierce incandescence,
Then you illumine the regions supernal,
Scintillate, scintillate, semper nocturnal.

Then the victim of hospiceless peregrination,
Gratefully hails your minute coruscation.
He could not determine his journey's direction,
But for your bright scintillating protection.

The Star

Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star
SA with piano

The Star - Jane Taylor (1783–1824)
The Little Star - unknown

arr. Paul Carey
Based on *Twelve Variations on*
“Ah! Vous dirai-je, Maman”
by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart

S Andantino ♩ = ca. 96

A

Andantino ♩ = ca. 96

mp

7 *mp*

Scin-til-late, scin-til-late, glob-ule or-if-ic,

mp

Scin-til-late, scin-til-late, glob-ule or-if-ic,

Duration: 2:30

13

Two vocal staves and a piano accompaniment. The vocal staves are in treble clef with a key signature of two sharps (F# and C#). The piano accompaniment consists of a right-hand staff in treble clef and a left-hand staff in bass clef, both with the same key signature. The lyrics are: "fain would I fath - om thy na - ture's spe - cif - ic. Loft - i - ly pois'd in".

fain would I fath - om thy na - ture's spe - cif - ic. Loft - i - ly pois'd in

fain would I fath - om thy na - ture's spe - cif - ic. Loft - i - ly pois'd in

19

Two vocal staves and a piano accompaniment. The vocal staves are in treble clef with a key signature of two sharps (F# and C#). The piano accompaniment consists of a right-hand staff in treble clef and a left-hand staff in bass clef, both with the same key signature. The lyrics are: "e - ther ca - pa - cious, strong - ly re - sem - bling a gem car - bon - a - ceous.".

e - ther ca - pa - cious, strong - ly re - sem - bling a gem car - bon - a - ceous.

e - ther ca - pa - cious, strong - ly re - sem - bling a gem car - bon - a - ceous.

25

Two vocal staves and a piano accompaniment. The vocal staves are in treble clef with a key signature of two sharps (F# and C#). The piano accompaniment consists of a right-hand staff in treble clef and a left-hand staff in bass clef, both with the same key signature. The lyrics are: "Scin - til - late, scin - til - late, glob - ule or - if - ic, fain would I fath - om thy".

Scin - til - late, scin - til - late, glob - ule or - if - ic, fain would I fath - om thy

Scin - til - late, scin - til - late, glob - ule or - if - ic, fain would I fath - om thy

31

na - ture's spe - cif - ic.

na - ture's spe - cif - ic.

mf

35

39

f

When tor - rid Phoe - bus re -

f

When tor - rid Phoe - bus re -

f

musical score for measures 43-46. It features two vocal staves and a piano accompaniment. The vocal staves have lyrics: "fus - es his pres - ence and ceas - es to lamp with". The piano accompaniment consists of a treble and bass staff. The treble staff has a melodic line with a slur over measures 43-44. The bass staff has a rhythmic pattern of eighth notes.

fus - es his pres - ence and ceas - es to lamp with

fus - es his pres - ence and ceas - es to lamp with

musical score for measures 47-50. It features two vocal staves and a piano accompaniment. The vocal staves have lyrics: "fierce in - can - des - cence, then you il - lu - mine the". The piano accompaniment consists of a treble and bass staff. The treble staff has a melodic line with a slur over measures 47-48. The bass staff has a rhythmic pattern of eighth notes. The dynamic marking *mf* is present above the vocal staves and below the piano staff.

fierce in - can - des - cence, then you il - lu - mine the

fierce in - can - des - cence, then you il - lu - mine the

mf

mf

musical score for measures 51-54. It features two vocal staves and a piano accompaniment. The vocal staves have lyrics: "re - gions su - per - nal, scin - til - late, scin - til - late,". The piano accompaniment consists of a treble and bass staff. The treble staff has a melodic line with a slur over measures 51-52. The bass staff has a rhythmic pattern of eighth notes. The dynamic marking *mf* is present above the vocal staves and below the piano staff.

re - gions su - per - nal, scin - til - late, scin - til - late,

re - gions su - per - nal, scin - til - late, scin - til - late,

mf

55 *mp poco rit.* , *f a tempo*

sem - per noc - tur - nal. Scin - til - late, scin - til - late,

mp poco rit. , *f a tempo*

sem - per noc - tur - nal. Scin - til - late, scin - til - late,

mp poco rit. *f a tempo*

59

glob - ule or - if - ic, fain would I fath - om thy

glob - ule or - if - ic, fain would I fath - om thy

63

na - ture's spe - cif - ic.

na - ture's spe - cif - ic.