

# Lulla, Lullaby

William Byrd (c.1540-1623)

Superius [Soprano] *The first singing part*

Medius [Alto]

Contratenor [Alto]

Tenor [Tenor]

Bassus [Bass]

Lul - la, lul - la - by, lul - la - by,

Lul - la,

Lul - la, lul - la - by, lul - la - by, lul - la -

Lul - la, lul - la, lul - la, lul - la - by,

Lul - la, lul - la - by, lul - la - by, la lul - la - by, lul -

lul - la lul - la - by, lul - la, lul - la - by, my sweet lit-tle ba - by,

lul - la - by, lul - la lul - la - by, my sweet lit-tle

-by, lul - la lul - la, lul - la - by, my sweet lit-tle ba - by, ba -

lul - la, lul - la - by, la lul-la, lul-la - by, my sweet lit - tle, lit -

- la - by la lul - la, lul - la - by, my sweet lit-tle ba - by, my

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my sweet lit-tle ba - by, my sweet lit-tle ba - by, what mean-est thou

ba - by, my sweet lit-tle ba - by, what mean - est thou

-by, my sweet lit - tle ba - by, ba - by, what mean - est thou to

- tle ba - by, my sweet lit - tle ba - by, what mean - est thou to

sweet lit - tle ba - by, what mean - est thou to cry, to

to cry, Lul - la, lul - la - by, la lul - la, lul - la, lul - la - by, la

to cry, Lul - la, lul - la - by, lul - la, lul - la - by,

cry, Lul - la, lul - la - by, la lul - la, lul - la - by, la

cry, Lul - la, lul - la - by, lul - la - by, by

to cry, Lul - la, lul - la - by, la lul - la, lul - la lul - la - by, la

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lul - la, lul - la - by, la lul - la, la lul - la - by, la

la lul - la, lul - la - by, la lul - la, la lul - la - by,

lul - la, lul - la - by, la lul - la, lul - la, lul - la - by, la lul - la - by,

la lul - la - by, la lul - la, la lul - la -

lul - la - by, la lul - la - by, la lul - la, lul - la,

[o → o.]

lul-la-by, la lul - la - by, lul - la - by, my sweet lit-tle ba - by, ba - by.

la lul-la-by, Lul - la - by, my sweet lit-tle ba - by.

la lul - la lul - la - by my sweet lit - tle ba - by, sweet ba - by.

-by, la lul - la, lul - la-by, lul - la - by my sweet lit-tle ba - by, ba - by.

la lul-la, lul - la, la lul-la-by, lul - la - by, my sweet lit-tle ba - by.

The second part

Be still my ble - sed babe, my ble - sed babe,  
 Be still my ble - sed babe,  
 Be still my ble - sed babe, my ble - sed babe, though cause  
 Be still my ble - sed babe, ble - sed babe, be still my ble - sed  
 Be still my ble - sed babe, ble - sed babe, be still my ble - sed

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though cause thou hast to mourn, though cause thou hast to mourn,  
 though cause thou hast to mourn: whose blood most  
 thou hast to mourn, to mourn: whose blood most in - no - cent to  
 babe, though cause thou hast to mourn, to mourn: whose blood most in - no -  
 babe, though cause thou hast to mourn: whose blood most in - no-cent

whose blood most in - no - cent to shed, the cru - el king hath sworn, the cru - el  
 in - no-cent to shed, the cru - el king hath sworn:  
 shed the cru - el king hath sworn, the cru - el king  
 -cent the cru - el king hath sworn, hath sworn, the cru -  
 to shed, to shed, the cru - el king hath sworn,

king hath sworn: and lo, a - las, be - - hold, what slaugh - ter

and lo, a - las, be - hold, what

hath sworn: and lo, a - las, be - hold, be - - hold,

-el king hath sworn: and lo, a - las, be - hold, what slaugh - ter he doth

hath sworn: and lo, a - las, be - - hold what slaugh -

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he doth make, shed - ding the blood of in - fants all,

slaugh-ter he doth make, shed - ding the blood of

what slaugh - ter he doth make, shed - ding the blood of in - fants all,

make, he doth make, he doth make, shed - ding the blood of, of in -

-ter he doth make, what slaugh - ter he doth make, shed - ding the

of in - fants all, sweet sa - vi - our, for thy sake, for thy sake.

in - fants all, sweet sa - vi - our for thy sake.

sweet sa - vi - our for thy sake, for thy sake.

- fants all, sweet sa - vi - our, for thy sake, for thy sake.

blood of in - fants all, sweet sa - vi - our, for thy sake, for thy sake.

A King, a King is born, they say, which king this king would

A King is born, they say, which king this king would

A King is born, they say, which king this king would kill, would

A King is born, they say, which king this king would kill, would

A King is born, they say, which king this king would kill, would

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kill: oh woe, woe, oh woe, and woe -

kill: oh woe, Oh woe, and

kill: oh woe, and woe - ful hea - vy day, oh woe, and woe -

kill: oh woe, woe, oh woe, woe, oh woe, and woe -

kill: oh woe, oh woe, oh woe, woe, oh woe

-ful, and woe - ful hea - vy day, hea - vy day, when

woe - ful hea - vy day, when wret - ches have their will,

-ful hea - vy day, when wret - ches have their will, have their will, have

- ful hea - vy day, when wret - ches have their will, have their will, when

and woe - ful hea - vy day, hea - vy day, when wret - ches have their will,



wret - ches have their will, when wret - ches have their will.  
 when wret - ches have their will, have their will.  
 their will, when wret - ches have their will.  
 wret - ches have their will, when wret - ches have their will.  
 have their will, their will, when wret - ches have their will.

Lulla la lulla lulla lullaby,  
 My sweet little Babie, what meanest thou to cry.

1. Bee still my blessed babe, though cause thou has to mourne:  
 whose bloud most innocent to shed, the cruell king hath sworne.  
 And lo, alas, behold, what slaughter hee doth make:  
 shedding the blod of infants all, sweet saviour for thy sake.  
 A king is borne, they say, which king this king would kill:  
 oh woe, & woefull heavy day, when wretched have their will.  
 Lulla, la lulla, lulla lullaby, my sweet, &c.
2. Three kings this King of kings to see, are come from farre,  
 To each unknowen, with offerings great, by guiding of a Starre:  
 And shepherds heard the song, which Angells bright did sing,  
 Giving all glory unto God, for comming of this King,  
 Which must bee made away, king *Herod* would him kill.  
 Oh woe and woefull heavie day, when wretches have their will.  
 Lulla, la lulla, lulla lullaby, my sweet, &c.

3. Loe, my little Babe, bee still, lament no more,  
 From furie shalt thou step aside, help have we still in store:  
 Wee heavenly warning have, some other soyle to seeke,  
 From death must flie the Lord of life, as Lamb both myld & meeke:  
 Thus must my Babe obey the king that would him kill.  
 Oh woe, and woefull heavie day, when wretches have their will.  
 Lulla, la lulla, lulla lullaby, my sweet &c.
4. But thou shalt live and raigne, as *Sibilles* have foresayd,  
 As all the Prophets prophesie, whose mother yet a maide,  
 And perfect Virgin pure, with her brestes shall upbreede,  
 Both God and man that all hath made, the Sonne of heavenly seede:  
 Whome caytives none can traye, whome tyrants none can kill,  
 Oh joy, and joyfull happie day, when wretches want their will.

Source: William Byrd, *Psalmes, Sonets, & songs of sadnes and pietie* (London, 1588), no.32.  
 I.8.1-2: semibreve in MS source of consort version (Oxford, Christ Church MSS 984-8).

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