

Sweet Was the Song

Text adapt. from *William Ballet's Lute Book*, 16th cent.

Ephrem Feeley

Very gently (♩ = ca. 140)

p

Soprano I
Sweet was the song the Vir - gin sang. Sweet

Soprano II
Sweet was the song the Vir - gin sang. Oo

Alto
Sweet was the song the Vir - gin sang. Oo

7

— was the song the Vir - gin sang. "Lul - ly, lul - lay, lul -

"Lul - ly, lul - lay, lul -

"Lul - ly, lul - lay, lul -

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13

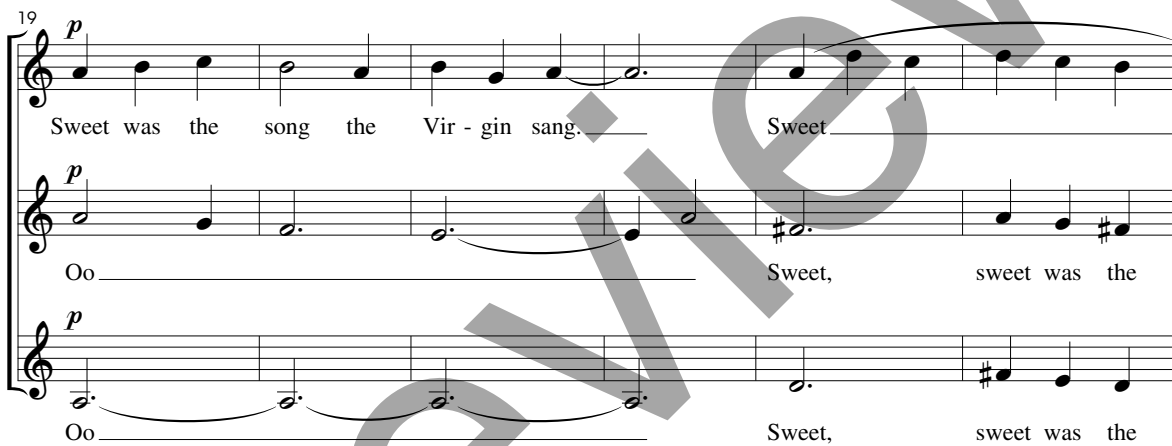


ly, lul - lay. Lul - lay, my lit - tle child." _____

ly, _____ lul - lay. Lul - lay, my lit - tle child." _____

ly, _____ lul - lay. Lul - lay, my lit - tle child." _____

19

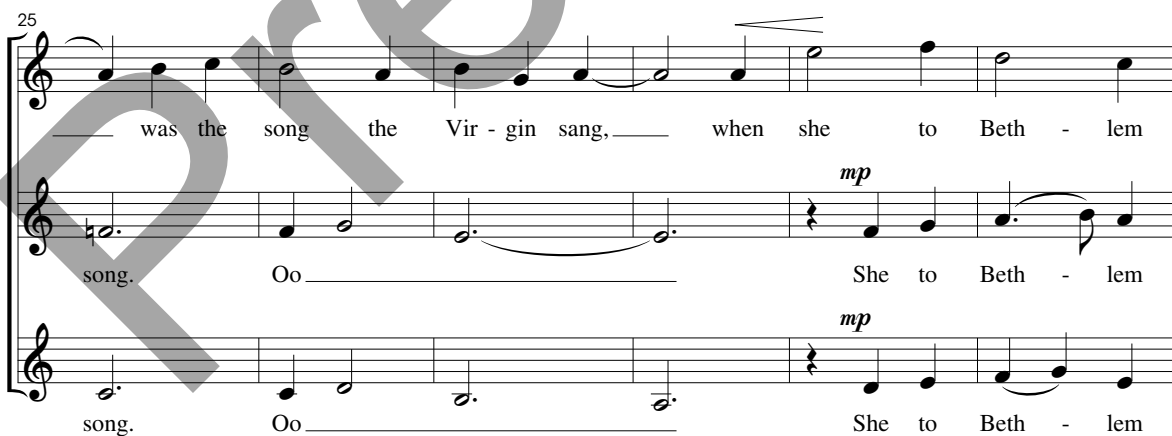


p Sweet was the song the Vir - gin sang. Sweet

p Oo Sweet, sweet was the

p Oo Sweet, sweet was the

25



_____ was the song the Vir - gin sang, _____ when she to Beth - lem

mp song. Oo She to Beth - lem

mp song. Oo She to Beth - lem

31

p

Ju - da came, ___ and was de - liv - ered of a Son, ___ that

p

Ju - da came, was de - liv - ered of a Son, that

p

Ju - da came, was de - liv - ered of a Son, that

37 *Misterioso*

Bless - ed Je - sus hath to name. ___ Sweet was the song the

Bless - ed Je - sus hath to name. ___ Oo

Bless - ed Je - sus hath to name. ___ Oo

42 *mf*

Vir - gin sang, ___ "My Son, and eke a Sav - iour born, ___

mf

"My Son, and eke a Sav - iour born, ___

mf

"My Son, and eke a Sav - iour born, ___

47

— who has vouch - saf - ed from on high _____ to

— who has vouch - saf - ed from on high _____ to

— who has vouch - saf - ed from on high, _____

52

vis - it us that were for - lorn." Sweet was the song the

vis - it us that were for - lorn." _____

to vis - it us, for - lorn." _____

57

Vir - gin sang. Sweet _____ was the song the

Sweet, sweet was the song. Oo _____

Sweet, sweet was the song. Oo _____

63

Vir - gin sang, — “Lul - ly, lul - lay, lul - ly, lul - lay. Lul - lay, my

— — — — — “Lul - ly, lul - lay, lul - ly, — — — — — lul - lay. Lul - lay, my

— — — — — “Lul - ly, lul - lay, lul - ly, — — — — — lul - lay. Lul - lay, my

70

molto rit. e sotto voce

lit - tle child.” — — — — — And rockt Him sweet - ly on her knee. — — — — —

lit - tle child.” — — — — — And rockt Him sweet - ly on her knee. — — — — —

lit - tle child.” — — — — — And rockt Him sweet - ly on her knee. — — — — —

Composer Notes

The words of this motet come from a manuscript in Trinity College, Dublin called *William Ballet's Lute Book*, a collection of sixteenth century popular tunes. The tender lullaby sung by the Virgin Mary to the infant Jesus is captured in this gentle adaptation of this text for treble voices.

In general, the dynamics are soft, although there is room for a slight *crescendo* once the first line of each verse has been sung. Measures 1–4 and 55–58 can be sung by a single voice if preferred. There should be a sense of *rubato* at the end of each phrase, with a slight pause before starting the next.

—Ephrem Feeley

Preview