

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

10

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

20

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,

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

30

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 -

40

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

50

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: oh
 when wret - ches have their will, have their will:
 their will, when wret - ches have their will: oh woe and
 wret - ches have their will, when wret - ches have their will: oh woe,
 have their will, their will, when wret - ches have their will: oh woe, oh

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

60

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

Editorial notes

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).
 IV.32.6: no flat in 1607 edition.

Part of my complete edition of the published vocal works of William Byrd made available through the Choral Public Domain Library (<http://www.cpd.org>).
 For general editorial notes, please visit my user page at <http://www.cpd.org/wiki/index.php/User:DaveF>.
 All scores are made freely available according to the CPDL Licence for downloading, printing, performing and recording. No further conditions are
 or can be attached, although it's always good to hear of any performances.
 Please do not, without consulting me, make copies of my scores available through other websites – there's no need, first of all, as CPDL is always here,
 and secondly by doing so you put these editions beyond my control and so will miss out on any updates and revisions.