

Per Drud Nielsen

## *Three Songs of Innocence*

Tre sange for sopran og klaver  
baseret på digte af William Blake

*Infant Joy*

*Spring*

*The Blossom*

Digteren og billedkunstneren William Blake (1757-1827) er i dag genstand for stor interesse, men mens han levede, digtede og malede i London, blev han anset for en særling. På Blakes tid hyldede man den gryende industrialisering, og man stolede på, at den menneskelige fornuft ville regulere alting til alles bedste. Men i Blakes optik var fornuften ikke enerådende. Blake ville kunne tilslutte sig titlen på en radering af hans spanske malerkollega Francisco Goya: "Fornuftens søvn fostrer uhyrer". Blake så nemlig skyggesiderne af det nye, moderne byliv. Han hæftede sig ved monotonien i det moderne liv og ved tabet af det umiddelbare, det sanselige og det lystfyldte.

I sin digtsamling *Songs of Innocence* (Uskyldens sange) fra 1789 udfolder han et visionært barnligt, uskyldigt univers, hvor netop umiddelbarhed, sanselighed og glæde er i højsædet. Og i den senere digtsamling *Songs of Experience* (Erfaringens sange) fra 1794 udfolder han uskyldens modsætning – det voksne menneskes blandede livserfaring, oplevelsen af de mørke, irrationelle og endda dæmoniske sider af menneskesindet og længslen efter tidens ende.

Den foreliggende lille samling rummer tre sange baseret på digte fra William Blakes *Songs of Innocence*. Sammen med denne samling har jeg udarbejdet en anden samling, som rummer tre sange baseret på digte fra Blakes *Songs of Experience*. De i alt seks sange er transskriptioner af sange for blandet kor a cappella, som jeg komponerede i 2009-10.

December 2022, Per Drud Nielsen

# Infant Joy

Tekst: William Blake  
Musik: Per Drud Nielsen

Andante innocente ♩ = app. 80

*mp*



"I have no name: I am but two days old." What shall I call thee? "I



hap - py am, Joy is my name." Sweet joy be - fall thee!



Pret - ty joy! Sweet joy, but two days old. Sweet joy I call thee:

Thou dost smile, I sing the while, Sweet joy be - fall thee!

The musical score consists of three staves. The top staff is a vocal line in treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a 3/4 time signature. The lyrics are written below the notes. The middle staff is the right-hand piano accompaniment in treble clef, and the bottom staff is the left-hand piano accompaniment in bass clef. The piece concludes with a double bar line.

# Spring

Tekst: William Blake  
Musik: Per Drud Nielsen

Allegro scherzando ♩ = app. 104

*mp*

Sound the Flute! Now it's mute. Birds de - light Day and Night;

*mp*

The first system of the musical score for 'Spring'. It features a vocal line and a piano accompaniment. The vocal line begins with the lyrics 'Sound the Flute! Now it's mute. Birds de - light Day and Night;'. The piano accompaniment starts with a rest in the first measure, followed by a melody in the right hand and a bass line in the left hand. The tempo is marked 'Allegro scherzando' with a quarter note equal to approximately 104 beats per minute. The dynamic is marked 'mp' (mezzo-piano).

Nigh - tin - gale In the dale Lark in Sky, Mer - ri - ly,

The second system of the musical score. The vocal line continues with the lyrics 'Nigh - tin - gale In the dale Lark in Sky, Mer - ri - ly,'. The piano accompaniment continues with a similar melodic and harmonic structure. The dynamic remains 'mp'.

Mer - ri - ly, Mer - ri - ly, Mer - ri - ly, to wel - come in the Year.

*f*

The third system of the musical score. The vocal line concludes with the lyrics 'Mer - ri - ly, Mer - ri - ly, Mer - ri - ly, to wel - come in the Year.'. The piano accompaniment also concludes. The dynamic is marked 'f' (forte).

*mp*

Lit - tle Boy, Full of joy; Lit - tle Girl,

Sweet and Small; Cock does crow, So do you; Mer - ry voice,

*f*

In - fant noise, Mer - ri - ly, Mer - ri - ly, Mer - ri - ly, to wel - come in the

*mp*

Year. Lit - tle Lamb, Here I am;

Come and lick My white neck; Let me pull Your soft Wool;

Let me kiss Your soft face: Mer - ri - ly, Mer - ri - ly,

Mer - ri - ly, ——— we wel - come in the Year.

# The Blossom

Tekst: William Blake  
Musik: Per Drud Nielsen

Andante semplice ♩ = app. 74

1. *mp* Mer - ry Mer - ry Spar - row! Un - der leaves so green, A  
2. *p* Pret - ty Pret - ty Ro - bin! Un - der leaves so green, A

1. *mp*  
2. *p*

The first system of the musical score for 'The Blossom'. It features a vocal line and a piano accompaniment. The key signature is three sharps (F#, C#, G#) and the time signature is 2/4. The tempo is marked 'Andante semplice' with a quarter note equal to approximately 74 beats per minute. The vocal line has two verses: the first verse starts with 'mp' and the second with 'p'. The piano accompaniment also has two versions, marked '1. mp' and '2. p'. The system ends with a double bar line and repeat dots.

hap - py Blossom Sees you, swift as arrow,  
hap - py Blossom Hears you sob - bing, sob - bing,

The second system of the musical score. The vocal line continues with the lyrics 'hap - py Blossom Sees you, swift as arrow, / hap - py Blossom Hears you sob - bing, sob - bing,'. The piano accompaniment continues with the same two versions as in the first system. The system ends with a double bar line and repeat dots.

Seek your cradle narrow Near my Blossom.  
Pret - ty Pret - ty Robin, Near my Blossom.

*rit.*

*rit.*

The third system of the musical score. The vocal line concludes with the lyrics 'Seek your cradle narrow Near my Blossom. / Pret - ty Pret - ty Robin, Near my Blossom.'. The piano accompaniment concludes with the same two versions. The system ends with a double bar line and repeat dots. The word 'rit.' (ritardando) is written above the vocal line and below the piano line.