

# THE GARTÁN MOTHER'S LULLABY

The mood needs little explanation in this song, but the music relies on a constant, gently rocking pulse twice in each bar. The occasional groups of quavers in the accompaniment determine the pace for the song. *Á lían bhán ó* means 'O lovely (or bright or fair) child'; the names Sheevra and Eeval are almost certainly inventions of the song-writer — in Gaelic, *sí* ('shee') is a spirit or fairy and *I* ('Ee') is the island of Iona, but that is rather a long way from Donegal!

Words: from Co. Donegal, Eire

Trad. arr. David Wright

**Larghetto** ♩. = 60

*p*

**Larghetto** ♩. = 60

*mp* *pp*

1. Sleep, O babe, for the red bee hums The

5

si - lent twi - light's fall. Ee - val from — the Grey Rock comes to

9

wrap the world — in thrall. — *Á lían bhán*<sup>(1)</sup> — my child, my joy, My

The musical score is written for voice and piano. It consists of three systems of music. The first system (measures 1-4) shows the vocal line starting with a rest, followed by the lyrics '1. Sleep, O babe, for the red bee hums The'. The piano accompaniment features a steady rocking pulse with quaver groups. The second system (measures 5-8) continues the vocal line with 'si - lent twi - light's fall. Ee - val from — the Grey Rock comes to'. The third system (measures 9-12) concludes with 'wrap the world — in thrall. — Á lían bhán<sup>(1)</sup> — my child, my joy, My'. The score includes dynamic markings such as *p*, *mp*, and *pp*, and tempo markings of **Larghetto** with a metronome marking of ♩. = 60. The key signature has three flats (B-flat, E-flat, A-flat).

(1) pronounced [b ɔː n]

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13

love and heart's de - sire: The cri - ckets sing you

16

2nd time to Coda ⊕

lul - la - by Be - side the dy - ing fire.

2nd time to Coda ⊕

(dim. 2nd time)

20

*p*

2. Dusk is drawn, and the Green Man's thorn Is wreathed in rings of fog.

*pp* *mp*

24

*poco più forte*

Shee - vra sails his boat till morn U - pon the star - ry bog: Á

*p*

28

*làn bán ó* — the pa - ly moon Hath brimmed her cusp — in

31

dew, — And weeps to hear — the sad sleep - tune I

34

sing, O love, to you. —

D.C. al Coda

♠ Coda

37

*p*

fire. —

*pp*