

Andrew Mark Sauerwein

SLEEP SONGS

1. Duermete Niño
2. Dodo Piti Popo
3. Na Wojtusia
4. Nana Nene
5. Ninna Nanna

2017

Program Note

The inspiration for *Sleep Songs* is folklore lullabies: songs which refer to stories and characters unique to specific cultures. This set was commissioned by soprano Roberta Duhs as part of her graduate studies at Jackson State University: She selected five lullabies, each with a different language and cultural background, and asked me to interpret them through the medium of artsong. The resulting pieces are fanciful musical commentaries on the process of falling asleep (willingly or not), on a mother's love, and on the sometimes fantastic imagery used to induce children to submit to slumber.

Composing *Sleep Songs* presented several engaging challenges. Not the least of these was working with five different languages, only two of which I claim any familiarity. Also, since all of the songs invoke lullabies, they tend toward the same expressive design, which could become tiresome: a parent (a mother, one might presume) singing a restless child to sleep. On the other hand, the lullabies express five distinct strategies for promoting sleep, involving some mixture of calm encouragement, withering insistence, fanciful stories, and menacing predators. A few of the traditional melodies do not strike me as naturally somnolent, either—most notably the insistently bouncy *dodo piti popo*. (One might argue convincingly that some of these songs might cause “folksong-induced insomnia.”)

In recasting each lullaby as an artsong, I had three objectives in mind. The first was to honor the texts and melodies Roberta had selected, particularly preserving the elements of folk-mythology. The second was to voice each song's “story” as well as the scene of a somewhat restless child losing focus and drifting off to sleep.

The third involved letting the music reflect *my* perspective, which (frankly) was not always clear to me. I am not sure that I approve of frightening a child to keep it in bed, I'm really not sure that La Befana is much of a witch, and I have no idea why Baba Jaga lives in a house made of butter. Going to sleep is also a daily reminder of death (perhaps this is why I adorned *Ninna Nanna* with quotations from *Coventry Carol*), which might explain why lullabies sometimes resort to expressions of fear and menace. However, I *do* have experience with the challenge and the rare beauty of sending a child to slumber, so I was careful to immerse the tense and fearful elements in an atmosphere of wonder and longing, and let each song dissolve into peaceful silence.

—Andrew Mark Sauerwein, March 2017

Texts and Translations

1. Duérmete Niño

*Duérmete niño,
Duérmete ya.
Que viene El Coco
Y te llevará.
Que viene El Coco
Y te comerá.*

Sleep my baby,
Sleep, baby, do!
The Coco [Bogeyman] is coming
And he will take you.
The Coco is coming
And he will eat you.

2. Dodo Piti Popo

*Dodo piti popo
Piti popo pa vle dodo.
Zambie a ke mange li
Sukugnan ke suce san.*

Sleep, little baby,
The little baby doesn't want to sleep.
The jumbie will eat him,
The soukouyant will suck his blood.

3. Na Wojtusia

*Już ci nigdy nie uwierzę Iskiereczko mała.
Wojtuś zapamięta.*

Never shall I believe you again, little Spark.
Wotjus will remember.

*Na Wojtusia z popielnika
Iskiereczka mruga
- Chodź opowiem ci bajeczkę,
Bajka będzie długa.*

From the ashtray of Wotjus
A Spark is blinking
"Come, I'll tell you a fairytale,
The fairytale will be long.

*Była sobie raz królewna,
Pokochała grajka,
Król wyprawił im wesele...
I skończona bajka.*

There once was a princess,
She fell in love with a musician,
The king hosts a wedding for them...
And that is the end of the story.

*Była sobie Baba Jaga,
Miała chatkę z masła,
A w tej chatce same dziwy...
Cyt! Iskierka zgasła.*

There once was Baba Jaga,
She had a hut of butter,
And in the hut everything was so strange..."
Pop! – the Spark is extinguished.

*Patrzy Wojtuś, patrzy, duma,
Zaszły łzę oczęta.
Czemuś mnie tak okłamała?
Wojtuś zapamięta.*

Wotjus looks, looking, wondering,
Tears have come into his eyes.
"Why have you lied to me so?"
Wotjus will remember.

*Już ci nigdy nie uwierzę Iskiereczko mała.
Najpierw błysniesz, potem gaśniesz,
Ot i bajka cała.*

“Never shall I believe you again, little Spark,
First you flash, then fade,”
And that’s the whole fairytale.

4. Nana Nenê

*Nana nenê
Que a Cuca vem pegar,
Papai foi na roça,
Mamãe foi trabalhar.*

Nana baby
Who Cuca [the Bogeyman] comes to catch,
Papa was in the fields,
Mama went to work.

*Boi, boi, boi,
Boi da cara preta,
Pega esse menino
Que tem medo de careta.*

Ox, bull, steer,
Black-faced Steer,
Take this boy
Who’s afraid of your grimace.

*Bicho papão,
Sai de cima do telhado,
Deixa esse menino
Dormir sossegado.*

Bogeyman,
Get off the roof,
Let this boy
Sleep peacefully.

5. Ninna Nanna

*Ninna nanna, ninna oh,
Questo bimbo a chi lo do?*

Ninna nanna, ninna oh,
To whom do I give this child?

*Lo darò alla Befana,
Che lo tiene una settimana.*

I’ll give it to the Befana
Who keeps him a week.

*Lo darò all' Uomo Nero,
Che lo tiene un anno intero.*

I’ll give it to the Black Man
Who keeps him a whole year.

*Lo darò all' Uomo Bianco,
Che le tiene finché è stanco.*

I’ll give it to the White Man
Who holds him until he is tired.

*Lo darò al Saggio Folletto,
Che lo renda Uomo perfetto!*

I’ll give it to the Wise Elf
Who makes him the perfect man!

*Se lo do al Bambin Gesù,
Se lo tiene'e non ce lo da più.*

If I give him to Baby Jesus,
He’ll keep him and not from us for long.

*Ninna nanna, ninna oh,
Questo bimbo lo terrò.*

Ninna nanna, ninna oh,
I’ll keep this baby.

Duérmete Niño

Trad. Spanish Lullaby

Andrew Mark Sauerwein

Like a music box (♩ = 76)

The musical score is written for voice and piano. It begins with a vocal line in 3/4 time, marked 'Like a music box (♩ = 76)'. The piano accompaniment starts with a melody in the right hand and a bass line in the left hand, both in 3/4 time. The key signature has one sharp (F#). The score includes dynamic markings such as *mp* (mezzo-piano) and *a tempo*. There are also tempo markings like *rall.* (rallentando) and *a tempo*. The lyrics are in Spanish: 'Duér - me - te ni - ño, Duér - me - te ni - ño, Duér - me - te'. The score is divided into systems, with measures 6, 11, and 17 marked. The piano part features a repeating eighth-note pattern in the left hand and a more melodic line in the right hand. The vocal part consists of a single line of music with lyrics underneath.

8 [watch clefs]
mp
(sim. sempre)

6 *rall.* *a tempo mp*
Duér - me - te ni - ño,
rall. *mp*

11
Duér - me - te ni - ño, ni - ño, Duér - me - te
11 8

Duérmete Niño ~ 2

Horrifically (♩=c. 132)

(half-spoken)
p *cresc.*

poco accel.

15
ya. Que vie - ne El Co - co Que vie - ne El Co - co

15 8
pp *cresc.*

19 Que vie - ne El Co - co Y te lle - va - rá. Duér - me - te

19 8
f **ff** **Tempo I** **mp**

23 ni - ño, Duér - me - te ni - ño, Duér - me - te

23 8

27 ya. Duér - me - te ya. ni - ño.

27 8
pp (wistfully)

Duérmeme Niño ~ 3

Tempo II

(half-spoken)
p *cresc.*

poco accel.

mf

32 — Que vie-ne El Co-co Que vie-ne El Co-co Que vie-ne El Co-co Y te co-me-

32 8 *pp* *cresc.* *mf*

36 *f* *a tempo* *p* rá. Duér - me - te ni - ño, — Duér - me - te

36 *f* *p*

40 ni - ño, ni - ño, Duér - me - te ya. —

40

44 Duér - me - te ya. — (distantly) — — —

44 *pp*

Duérmeme Niño ~ 4

48 *pp*

O - cul - tar, El Co - co.

48 *mp* *pp*

ppp (sempre) (sim.)

52 Duér - me - te mi ni - ño, Duér - me - te

52

56 (gradually fading)

ya. Duér - me - te ya. _____

56

60 *ppp*

Duér - me - te Duér - me - te

60 *ppp*

Dodo Piti Popo

Trad. Trinidad Lullaby

Andrew Mark Sauerwein

Restlessly, lightly, lively (♩ = 90)

The musical score for 'Dodo Piti Popo' is written for piano and voice. It begins with a 3/8 time signature, which changes to 2/4 at the first measure of the piano accompaniment. The tempo/mood is 'Restlessly, lightly, lively' with a quarter note equal to 90 beats per minute. The piano part features a rhythmic pattern of eighth and sixteenth notes, with dynamics ranging from *f* (forte) to *pp* (pianissimo). The vocal part enters at measure 7 with the lyrics 'Do - do pi - ti po - po, Do - do'. The tempo/mood changes to 'sweetly, calmly, insistently' at measure 12, and the piano part becomes more sustained, with a *pp* dynamic. The score ends at measure 15.

7

7

12

12

f *mp* *pp* *mp*

sweetly, calmly, insistently

Do - do pi - ti po - po, Do - do

Dodo Piti Popo ~ 2

18

pi - ti po - po, Pi - ti po - po pa vle do - do. Pi - ti po - po pa

24

gently but firmly
mf

vle do - do. Do - do pi - ti po - po, Do - do pi - ti po - po,

30

mp **p**

Pi - ti po - po pa vle do - do. Pi - ti po - po pa vle do - do.

36

with slight weariness
mp

Do - do pi - ti po - po,

more heavily
mf **p**

Dodo Piti Popo ~ 3

39

mf

Pi - ti po - po — pa vle do - do. — Do - do pi - ti po - po,

39

mf

42

p

Pi - ti po - po pa vle do - do. Do - do —

42

p

menacingly

mf

46

frightfully

f

Zam - bi a ke man - ge li,

46

mp

cresc.

f

ppp

pp

50

ff

Su - ku - gnan ke su - ce san. Zam - bi —

50

mp

f

pp

p

ff

p

(loco)

Dodo Piti Popo ~ 4

sweetly, sedately

54 *mp* *p dim.*
 Zam - bi a ke man - ge li, Su - ku - gnan ke

54 *pp* *ppp* *mp* *p dim.*
 (8vb) *pp* *ppp* *mp* *p dim.*

59 *pp* *gently, lightly*
 su - ce san. Do - do pi - ti po - po, pi - ti

59 *pp* *distantly*
pp

62 *gradually fade*
 po - po, pi - ti po - po, do - do, do - do,

62

65 do - do.

65 *rall. & dim.*

Na Wojtusia

Trad. Polish Lullaby

Andrew Mark Sauerwein

With Restrained Passion
mp (spoken, ad lib.) *pp*
(harshly, half-whispered)

Już ci nig-dy nie nie — u - wier - zę, I - skie-recz-ko ma-ła, Woj-tuś za - pa -

pp

4 (♩=ca. 120)
mie - ta.

4 (delicately)
p *mp*

8 *Plaintively*
mp

Na Woj-tu - sia_z po - piel-ni - ka Is-kie-recz - ka mru - ga,

(ped. sim.)

The musical score is written for voice and piano. The key signature has one sharp (F#), and the time signature is 6/8. The score is divided into three systems. The first system (measures 1-4) features a vocal line with lyrics 'Już ci nig-dy nie nie — u - wier - zę, I - skie-recz-ko ma-ła, Woj-tuś za - pa -' and a piano accompaniment. The second system (measures 5-8) continues the vocal line with 'mie - ta.' and the piano accompaniment. The third system (measures 9-12) features a vocal line with lyrics 'Na Woj-tu - sia_z po - piel-ni - ka Is-kie-recz - ka mru - ga,' and a piano accompaniment. The score includes various musical notations such as dynamics (mp, pp, p), articulation (accents, slurs), and performance instructions (With Restrained Passion, Plaintively, (delicately), (ped. sim.)).

Na Wojtusia ~ 2

13 *sfz*

Chodź! o - po - wiem ci ba - jecz - kę, Baj - ka be - dzie

13 8

16 *mf* (extravagantly)

dłu - ga. By - ła so - bie

16 *poco rall.* *a tempo* *mf*

19

raz — kró - lew - na, Po - ko - cha - ła graj - ka,

19

22 (with abrupt reserve)

Krół — wy - pra - wił — im — we - se - le, I skoń - czo - na baj - ka.

22 *cresc.* 2 2

Na Wojtusia ~ 3

26 *f* (erratically)

By - ła so - bie Ba - ba Ja - ga, Mia - ła chat - kę_z

29

ma - sła, A w tej chat - ce sa - me dzi - wy,

32 *fp* **More Slowly** *rit.*

[Cyt!] ss i - skier - ka zga - sła.

35 **Wistfully** (♩=ca. 92) *poco cresc.* *p*

Pa - trzy Woj - tuś, pa - trzy, du - ma, Za - szły łąą o -

39 *mf* *pp*

czę - ta. Cze-muś mnie tak o - kła-ma - ła? _____

39 *cresc.* *mp* *p* *(delicately)*

43 *p (with plaintive sorrow)*

Już ci nig - dy nie u - wier - zę, I - skie-recz - ko

43

48 *mp* *pp*

ma - ła, Naj-pierw błysz-niesz, błysz-niesz, po-tem gaś-niesz, _____ gaś - niesz,

48 *mp* *pp*

53 *(whispered, freely)*

Ot I baj - ka ca - ła.

53 *rall.* *dim.* *ppp*

Nana Nene

Trad. Portuguese Lullaby

Andrew Mark Sauerwein

Lightly, with Subtle Passion (♩ = c. 84)

The musical score for "Nana Nene" is presented in three systems. The first system shows the piano introduction in 4/4 time, with a treble staff and a bass staff. The second system includes the vocal melody and piano accompaniment, with lyrics in Portuguese. The third system continues the vocal melody and piano accompaniment.

Na - na ne - nê Que_a Cu - ca vem _____ pe - gar, _____

Pa - pai _____ foi na ro - ça, _____ Ma - mãe foi tra - bal - har.

Nana Nene ~ 2

13 *mp* 3 *mf*

Na - na ne - nê Que_a Cu - ca vem pe - gar, — Pa - pai foi na

13

cresc.

17 *dim.* 3 *p* **Playfully: Slightly Faster** ($\text{♩} = c. 92$) *f*

ro - ça, — Ma - mãe — foi tra - bal - har. — Boi, boi,

17

f

21 *p* *cresc.*

— boi, Boi — da ca - ra pre - ta, Pe - ga - es - se me - ni - no Que tem

21

p *cresc.*

26 *mf* 3 *f* *p*

me - do — de ca - re - ta. Boi, boi, — boi, Boi — da ca - ra pre - ta,

26

f *p*

Nana Nene ~ 3

31 *cresc.* *mf* *3* *3* *ff*

Pe - ga_es - se me - ni - no Que tem me - do de ca - re - ta. Boi, boi,

31 *mp* *ff*

35 *mp* *rall. e dim.*

— boi, Boi da ca - ra pre - ta, —

35 *mp* *rall. e dim.* *pp* *8vb*

39 **Gently, Wistfully** (♩ = c. 72) *p*

Bi - cho pa - pão, Sai de ci - ma do tel - ha - do, Dei - xa_es - se me -

39 *p*

43 *pp*

ni - no Dor - mir sos - se - ga - do. Bi - cho pa - pão, Sai de ci - ma do tel -

43 *pp*

Nana Nene ~ 4

47

ha - do, Dei - xa es - se me - ni - no Dor - mir

51

dim. al niente

sos - se - ga - do.

dim. *ppp*

Ninna Nanna

Trad. Italian Lullaby

Andrew Mark Sauerwein

Calmly, with delicate intensity (♩ = 66)

The musical score for 'Ninna Nanna' is presented in three systems, each with a vocal line and a piano accompaniment. The key signature is one flat (B-flat), and the time signature is 4/4. The tempo is marked 'Calmly, with delicate intensity' with a quarter note equal to 66 beats per minute.

System 1: The vocal line begins with a whole rest, followed by a half note G4, a quarter note A4, and a quarter note B4. The piano accompaniment starts with a *mf* dynamic, featuring a descending scale in the right hand and a steady bass line in the left hand. Dynamics include *mf*, *dim.*, *p*, and *mp*. The lyrics are 'Nin-na nan - na, nin-na'.

System 2: The vocal line continues with 'oh, que - sto bim - bo'a chi lo do? Nin - na nan - na, nin - na'. The piano accompaniment features a melodic line in the right hand and a supporting bass line in the left hand. Dynamics include *p* and *mp*.

System 3: The vocal line concludes with 'oh, que - sto bim - bo'a chi lo do? Lo da - rò al - la Be -'. The piano accompaniment includes a *pp* (pianissimo) section marked '(bell-like)' and a final *mp* section. Dynamics include *mp*, *pp*, and *mp*.

Ninna Nanna ~ 2

15 *poco mf*

fa - na, — Che lo tie - ne un - a set - ti - ma - na. Lo da - rò all' Uo - mo

15 *poco mf*

19 *f*

Ne - ro, — Che lo tie - ne un an - no' in - te - ro. —

19 *mp* *cresc.* *f*

23 *mp*

Lo da - rò all' Uo - mo Bian - co, — Che le

23 *(with distant solemnity)* *p* *mp* *(p)* *mp*

27 *mf* *mp*

tie - ne fin - ché'è stan - co — Lo da - rò al Sag - gio Fol - let - to, Che lo

27 *(p)* *(p)* *mf* *(p)*

Ninna Nanna ~ 3

Ponderously

pp

31

ren-da Uo-mo per-fet-to!

Se lo do al Bam-bin

pp

mp

36

(pensively, with wonder)

Ge-sù, — se lo tie-ne'e non ce lo da più.

p

(less distantly than before)

(p)

dim.

3

40

p

dim.

Nin-na nan-na, nin-na oh, que-sto bim-bo

dim.

44

pp

ppp

dim. al niente

lo ter-rò, — lo — ter-rò —

pp

ppp

ppp